



# ORGANICS RECYCLING



Turn your food waste into something good

*Dakota*  
COUNTY

# Why recycle organics?

More than one-third of what is being thrown in the trash could be composted — that's nearly nine pounds per household every week. Instead of trashing it, turn food scraps, non-recyclable paper and certified compostable items into rich compost — a soil additive that increases the nutrients in soil, reduces erosion and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers.

**When you recycle your organics everyone benefits — you, your community and the environment.**



# It's free and easy to recycle your organics

## 1 Sign up to drop off

- If you're a Dakota County resident, you can sign up for the organics recycling program by calling 952-891-7557 or emailing [organics@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:organics@co.dakota.mn.us).
- You'll receive a welcome kit with a free container label, compostable bags and details on how to recycle organics. You'll also receive the access code to the locked drop-off location.

## 2 Place an organics recycling container in your kitchen, pantry or other convenient location

- Use an ice cream bucket, coffee container or yogurt tub or purchase a kitchen countertop organics container at your local retailer or online. Vent the lid on the container to reduce odor.
- Line the container with a paper bag or certified compostable bag. Compostable bags are free at the Dakota County organics drop-off location. If using your own bag, check that it has the BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute) or Cedar Grove logo on the bag or box. Using bags makes it easier to transport the organics from your home to the drop-off location and helps reduce odor and pests.

## 3 Collect food and non-recyclable paper

- A list of acceptable and non-acceptable items is listed on the next page.

## 4 Bring bagged organics to the drop-off location

- Access the organics recycling enclosure using your access code.
- Place the filled bag in the container marked "organics recycling." Loose food scraps are not accepted.
- Take a free compostable bag to begin collecting again.

# What is accepted

## All food

- Fruit and vegetables
- Meat, bones and fish
- Nuts and shells
- Dairy, yogurt and cheese
- Eggs and eggshells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread, cereal and baked goods



## Non-recyclable paper and food-soiled paper

- Paper towels, napkins and tissues
- Paper towel and toilet paper rolls
- Paper egg cartons (these do not need to be bagged)
- Dirty paper bags
- Tissues



# What is not accepted

- Yard waste
- Plastic bags
- Recyclable items (glass, plastic, metal, clean paper)
- Milk or juice cartons
- Diapers and sanitary products
- Pet waste, litter or bedding
- Dryer sheets and lint
- Fast food wrappers
- Cleaning or baby wipes
- Frozen food boxes
- Cigarettes
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Stickers on produce
- Grease or oil
- Styrofoam™
- Non-certified compostable bags
- Food service items (utensils, plates, bowls, cups) not certified compostable
- Items labeled "biodegradable"

Hang this handy chart near your organics container.

## Certified compostable products

- Items with the BPI mark or Cedar Grove Certified Compostable logo on the product or packaging



**COMPOSTABLE**  
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES



## Other Miscellaneous

- Hair and fur
- Popsicle sticks and toothpicks
- Houseplant trimmings and flowers
- Cotton balls
- Animal and pet feed
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags



# Where to bring them

Drop off your organics at  
**Thompson County Park**  
1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul  
Hours: 5 a.m.-10 p.m.

The organics recycling drop-off location is a fenced, locked enclosure in a well-lit area of the south parking lot.

You may bring more than one bag at a time and as frequently as needed during park hours. All organics must be bagged.

When leaving the drop-off location, ensure the enclosure is locked to prevent illegal dumping and reduce contamination.





**Organics recycling at the drop-off location in Dakota County is FREE — all you need to do is sign up, collect your organics and drop them off.**

You can still use your backyard composter for fruits, veggies and yard waste. Organics drop-off locations let you compost meat, bones, dairy products and certified compostable products to help keep them out of landfills. Organics brought to the drop-off location are taken to a commercial compost facility that maintains higher temperatures that kill bacteria and breakdown more materials than a backyard compost pile.

Remember, you're collecting the same organic materials you would normally put in your trash — you're simply putting them in a different container.

# TIPS FOR ORGANICS RECYCLING

## PREVENT ODOR

You can cut down on odors by using a pail with a vented lid, keeping your container in the fridge or freezer, rinsing your pail periodically and dropping off your organics at least once each week.

## NIP FRUIT FLIES IN THE BUD

Fruit flies come from fruit peels whether in your fruit basket, trash can or organics container. Keep your organics container in the fridge or freezer to help prevent fruit flies.

## COLLECT AROUND THE HOUSE

Collect toilet paper rolls, pet fur, houseplant trimmings and other organic materials from the bathroom, living room, kitchen and all parts of your home.

## LABEL YOUR CONTAINER

Label the container so everyone in the household knows how to sort their waste. A free label is provided when you sign up for the program.

## QUESTIONS?

Call: **952-891-7557**

Email: **[organics@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:organics@co.dakota.mn.us)**

Web: **[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)**  
search *organics recycling*

