

# What Should Go Into the Compost Can?



## COMPOSTABLES

- Fruit or vegetable such as apple cores, banana peels & citrus rinds
- Coffee grounds and filters; tea bags, wooden coffee stirrers
- Bread, rolls, bagels & muffins with or without butter, cream cheese, mayo, etc.
- Pizza; popcorn; sandwiches, and any other food item
- Chinese, Thai; Italian and other vendor or restaurant foods
- Salad with or without dressing
- Pasta with or without sauce
- Cold cuts, meat, chicken, fish, cheese, yogurt, eggs
- Brown paper towels and napkins (from break rooms only). NO white towels.
- Flowers, plants (Without pots and disease free. Cut vines into pieces.)

## NON-COMPOSTABLES

- **NO** Glass
- **NO** Metal, such as bottle tops, aluminum foil, soda cans, twist ties
- **NO** Plastic, such as sandwich bags, plastic wrap, styrofoam containers, plastic straws and stirrers
- **NO** Single serve containers, such as juice boxes and milk cartons
- **NO** Microwave meal trays/packaging or take-out containers
- **NO** Popcorn bags, candy wrappers, snack packaging, or coffee creamers
- **NO** Paper cups or styrofoam cups
- **NO** Liquids
- **NO** Newspaper, office paper, magazines, or cardboard
- **NO** Diseased plants
- **NO** White paper towels
- **NO** Items labeled "Compostable" or "Biodegradable" (see below)

## Special Issues

- The compost we make is used at our state parks, so let's keep it clean. Putting glass, metal, plastic and other non-compostables in the can makes the compost look trashy and unacceptable for garden beds. It also causes more work for the DEEP volunteers who manage this very unique program, and who have to screen inappropriate items out of our compost. **When in doubt, leave it out!**
- Please DO NOT add items like cups, utensils, trays, packaging or wrappers that are labeled "Compostable" or "Biodegradable". Although they may eventually degrade in a commercial composting facility, they will not break-down adequately in our system. In addition, there is a lot of "greenwashing" throughout the packaging industry making claims about degradability that may not be true. And finally, the plastic film (bags) that carry these claims will get tangled in the mechanical parts that turn our compost.
- Because we have a special composting vessel designed to handle institutional organics, we are putting ALL of our food scraps in the collection bucket, even meat and dairy products which normally would not be appropriate in a home composting setting. In addition, certain paper items, such as coffee filters, tea bags, and paper towels from the break rooms are being included.
- Plants must be disease-free and without pots. Please cut big or viney plants like ivy or philodendron into 8" pieces or smaller to prevent them from wrapping around the compost vessel auger.
- White paper towels and napkins don't seem to decompose as well as brown towels and affect the quality of the compost. White paper is bleached during the paper-making process and may contain residue that we don't want in our compost. Please cut brown paper towels into 18" pieces or smaller. **If you have questions, please call K.C. Alexander at x-3239**