

Welcome to Composting!

You have joined a community of people who are helping our city, while reducing your smelly garbage at home - a real win-win situation! Food scraps that are diverted from landfill, where they would produce methane gas, are turned into valuable resources - compost (for soil) and fertilizer (for plants) - and used locally for urban farming and gardening.

We have assembled a few tips that may help as you get started:

Gathering food scraps

- A large yogurt (or similar size, light weight) container with a lid, works as well as a commercially available compost pail. (Or try Tupperware or an ice bucket.)
- GrowNYC provides free countertop containers on request.
- Keep your container near your sink, or area where you chop or prepare food.
- Lining the container is optional.
- Placing a bit of newspaper at the bottom of the pail helps to absorb moisture.

Storing food scraps

- To reduce # of trips to the communal brown bin, you can store food scraps in fridge or freezer, depending on where you have space.
- Plastic bags (ok), compostable bags (better) or paper bags (best) can be used for storage. All can be dumped in the brown bin, but only paper is turned into compost. (Plastic and compostable plastic bags are currently removed and sent to landfill.)

Using the communal organics (brown) bin

- Familiarize yourself with the lock - it's only a little challenging - and it does work even with the plastic liner bag (if there is one), despite your first impression!
- Once it's full, start a new bin. Don't overfill!

What goes in the brown bin

- Food scraps including grains, nut and egg shells and pits. Meat, bones and dairy products are all accepted here, but not at greenmarket bins.
- Food soiled/oil stained paper, cardboard, paper towels, paper plates. (Not paper cups or anything coated or lined to repel liquids, and not clean paper products that can be recycled.)
- Parchment paper but not waxed paper.
- Plant and yard cuttings, dried flowers and potting soil.
- Cork, but only if it is real cork and untreated.
- Wood scraps (e.g. popsicle or chopsticks) if wood is untreated.
- Coffee filters and tea bags, except the mesh type, which is made of plastic.

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/organics and <https://www.grownyc.org/compost>