



ACCEPTABLE & NOT ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS FOR INCLUSION IN OUR COMPOST BUCKETS

ACCEPTABLE 😊

- Any products labeled as BPI-Certified Compostable (<https://bpiworld.org/Find-Certified-Products>)
- Ashes, from untreated, natural wood and plain/matte paper and cardboard only
- Bagels, biscuits, breads, cereal, crackers, croissants, pastas, rice, quinoa, etc.; really any grains are ok
- Coffee grounds of all kinds & paper coffee filters
- Cotton balls & Q-tip brand cotton swabs (only if they've had no contact with chemicals or make-up)
- Dead/dying houseplants & garden waste (unless diseased or chemically-treated); root balls are ok
- Egg shells & whole eggs (raw & cooked/hardboiled ok)
- Fall leaves (no lawn mower clippings mixed in, please!)
- Fish skins (such as those produced during filleting)
- Fruit & vegetable cores, husks, peels, rinds, scraps, trimmings, etc. / old or expired fruits & vegetables (with all stickers, tape, & plastic removed, please!)
- Herbivorous animal droppings (such as from rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.), bird droppings (such as from chickens), & worm castings
- Newspaper (B&W & colored ok; remove shiny inserts!)
- Nuts, seeds, & their shells (no black walnut, please!)
- Old/spent potting soil (perlite is ok; no rocks, please!)
- Pits (such as from avocados, mangos, peaches, etc.)
- Plain/matte (as in, not shiny or glossy) paper & cardboard items, such as boxes (including soiled pizza boxes), egg cartons, packing paper, paper bags, paper towel/toilet paper tubes, etc., with stamps, staples, stickers, & tape removed (no receipts, please!); B&W & colored ok; NO MACHINE-SHREDDED MATERIAL WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION, PLEASE!
- Pumpkins/Jack o' Lanterns, gourds, straw bales, and corn stalks, as long as not painted or preserved with bleach (please remove any tea lights!)
- Wood/planer shavings & sawdust (made from untreated, natural wood only), including herbivorous animal and chicken bedding
- Scobies (such as from kombucha production)
- Shells from shrimp and other soft-shelled crustaceans
- Tea bags, strings, & tags made of paper/cotton, with all staples/plastic removed; no pyramid/"silk" bags!
- Used/soiled paper towels, tissues, & napkins (only if they've had no contact with chemicals)
- Vegan candies, chocolates, & baked goods of all kinds

NOT ACCEPTABLE 😞

- Alcohol (beer, wine, hard liquor, rubbing alcohol, etc.)
- Ashes derived from anything other than untreated, natural wood or plain/matte paper and cardboard
- Baked goods coated or covered in dairy-based products such as cheese or frosting
- Black walnut products (including hulls, leaves, and nuts), as they contain a chemical known as juglone, which inhibits growth in many plants
- Bones of any shape or size, regardless of source
- Chemicals of any kind (such as those commonly found in make-up, wet wipes, household cleaners, etc.)
- Dairy products (such as cheese, milk, yogurt, etc.)
- Diapers, whether used or not
- Diseased or chemically-treated plants
- Dryer lint of any kind (due to risk of contaminants)
- Feces (including "manure") from any animals besides the ones mentioned in the Acceptable column at left
- Feminine hygiene products, whether used or not
- Glass of any kind (regardless of how dull or sharp)
- Glossy, shiny, or "non-stick" paper or cardboard of any kind, including wax, parchment, gift wrap, and "baking" paper
- Hair or fur of any kind (as it doesn't compost well)
- Hard, woody materials, such as bamboo brush handles, wood chips, pine cones, sticks, etc.
- Lawn mower clippings (due to the risk of weed killer/Roundup contamination)
- Large volumes of liquids, such as coffee, juice, kombucha, nut milks, pickle brine, tea, etc. (a little bit is ok; leakage from decaying food scraps is expected)
- Leather goods/products of any kind
- Meat (including beef, chicken, fish, lamb, pork, turkey, seafood, etc.), whether raw or cooked
- Metal of any kind (including foil & tea bag staples)
- Plastic of any kind (such stickers and rubber bands on fruits & vegetables), including Styrofoam
- Receipts (which are made of toxic "thermal paper")
- Sourdough starter (due to how sticky it is)
- Stones/rocks of any kind, regardless of size
- Synthetic, semi-synthetic, or inorganic fabrics of any kind (such as nylon, polyester, rayon, spandex, etc.)
- Toe & finger nail clippings (due to contaminant risk)
- Wine/bottle corks (as they don't compost well)

RULE OF THUMB: When in doubt, throw it out!