



ACCEPTABLE & NOT ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS FOR INCLUSION IN OUR COMPOST BUCKETS

ACCEPTABLE 😊

- Any products labeled as BPI (<https://bpiworld.org/Find-Certified-Products>) or TUV (<https://www.tuv-at.be/green-marks/certified-products/>) Certified Compostable
- Ashes, from untreated, natural wood (**no charcoal!**)
- Coffee beans & grounds, plus paper coffee filters
- Cotton balls & Q-tip brand cotton swabs, unless contaminated with chemicals/make-up of any kind
- Dead/dying houseplants & garden waste, unless diseased or chemically-treated (**remove root balls!**)
- Eggs (including raw, hardboiled/Easter eggs, & shells)
- Fall leaves (**no grass/lawn mower clippings mixed in!**)
- Fish skins (such as those produced during filleting)
- Flowers, unless painted/dyed with non-food-safe paints or dyes or coated/covered in glitter
- Fruits & vegetables, including whole produce & scraps (**remove stickers & other plastics!**)
- Grains (corn, rice, quinoa, etc.) & grain-based foods of any kind (breads, cereals, chips, crackers, pastas, etc.)
- Herbivorous animal droppings (from rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.) & bird droppings (from chickens, etc.)
- Napkins, paper towels, etc. soiled with food
- Newspaper, B&W or color (**remove all shiny inserts!**)
- Nuts, seeds, & their shells (**no black walnut or pecan!**)
- Old/spent potting soil (perlite is ok; **remove all rocks!**)
- Pits (from avocados, mangos, peaches, plums, etc.)
- Plain/matte paper & cardboard items, with or without ink (**no receipts!**), including soiled pizza boxes, egg cartons, packing paper, paper bags, paper towel/toilet paper tubes, etc. (**remove all stamps, staples, stickers, & tape! NO MACHINE-SHREDDED MATERIAL WITHOUT WRITTEN PRE-APPROVAL, PLEASE!**)
- Pumpkins, gourds, straw bales, & corn stalks, unless painted or preserved with chemicals of any kind (**remove tea lights!**), if they can fit in our buckets or acceptable bags (or if we are collecting them during our Annual Pumpkin Drive in November)
- Wood/planer shavings & sawdust, but only if derived from untreated, natural wood
- Scobies (such as from kombucha production)
- Shells from shrimp & other soft-shelled crustaceans
- Tea bags, strings, & tags, but only if made of non-shiny/non-glossy paper or cotton (**no pyramid-shaped or "silk" bags! Remove staples & plastic!**)

NOT ACCEPTABLE ☹️

- Alcohol (beer, wine, hard liquor, etc.) & vinegar
- Black walnut or pecan products (including bark, hulls, leaves, & nuts), due to juglone content
- Bones of any shape or size, regardless of source
- Ceramics (such as terracotta pot pieces)
- Charcoal or coal (whether "natural" or not)
- Chemicals of any kind (meaning no make-up, disinfectant/wet wipes, household cleaners, etc.)
- Corks of any kind (as they do not compost well)
- Dairy products (such as cheese, milk, yogurt, etc.)
- Diapers, whether used or not
- 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
- Frosting, whether dairy-based or vegan (including on baked goods), due to large amounts of milk or oil
- Feminine hygiene products, whether used or not
- Glass of any kind (regardless of how dull or sharp)
- 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 herbicide/weed killer/Roundup contamination)
- Liquids, such as coffee, juice, kombucha, nut milks, pickle brine, tea, etc. (a little bit is ok; leakage from decomposing fruit & vegetable scraps is expected)
- Leather goods/products of any kind
- Meat of any kind, whether raw or cooked
- Metal of any kind (including foil & tea bag staples)
- Plastic or Styrofoam of any kind (including stickers & rubber bands/tags commonly found on fresh produce)
- Receipts (which are made of toxic "thermal paper")
- Rocks or stones of any kind, regardless of size
- Root balls (such as from dead, potted houseplants)
- Shiny/glossy paper or cardboard (including "gift wrap" paper & food boxes lined with "waterproof" material)
- "Snotty" tissues or Kleenex (for health/safety reasons)
- Sourdough starter (due to its stickiness)
- Synthetic, semi-synthetic, or inorganic fabrics of any kind (such as nylon, polyester, rayon, spandex, etc.)
- Toe & finger nail clippings (due to contaminant risk)
- Wax, "baking"/parchment, or "non-stick" paper
- Wet wipes / baby wipes (due to chemical content)

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