

GREENERBAY

COMPOST

ACCEPTABLE & NOT ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS FOR COMPOSTING (UPDATED JUNE 2024)

ACCEPTABLE 😊

- Products clearly & individually labeled as BPI, TUV, or Compost Manufacturing Alliance certified **compostable** (bags, bowls/cups, cutlery, etc.)
- Bones (from cooked meats only! Carcasses are ok)
- Baked goods (bread, cakes, cookies, pie, etc.) & plant-based baking supplies (cocoa, flour, stevia, sugar, etc.)
- Candy (no gum, sticks, or wrappers/packaging!)
- Certain plain/matte (not shiny/glossy), uncoated paper items: Coffee filters, egg cartons (no stickers!), napkins, paper bags (including soiled or clean “fast food” bags (no receipts!), paper plates, paper towels, pizza boxes & cardboard pizza “rounds” (no Chinese food style takeout boxes!), paper tea bags/tags (remove staples! No silky/“pyramid” bags!), & toilet paper/paper towel tubes — **remove all stickers, staples, tape, & receipts! No shredded paper!**
- Chemical-free cotton balls & Q-tip brand cotton swabs
- Coffee beans, chaff, grounds, & paper coffee filters
- Cooked/cured meat (beef, fish, etc.) — fat/gristle ok
- Crustacean/mollusk shells (clams, crabs, lobsters, etc.)
- Eggs/egg shells (including raw, hardboiled/Easter eggs)
- Fall leaves (no grass/lawn mower clippings mixed in!)
- Fish skins (such as those produced during filleting)
- Flowers (only if not painted, dipped, or dyed!)
- Fruit & their pits (avocado, mango, etc.), vegetables (including root veggies, beans), & herbs — fresh, frozen, or rotten, whole or scraps, raw or cooked are all acceptable!) (remove all stickers & plastics!)
- Grains (corn, rice, wheat, etc.) & grain-based products, including cereal, chips, crackers, pastas, tortillas, etc.
- Herbivorous animal/chicken bedding & droppings
- Houseplants, garden waste, & old/spent potting soil, unless chemically-treated (remove rocks! Perlite, vermiculite & small, green fertilizer pellets are ok)
- Jams, jellies, & other canned/jarred goods (syrups, nut butters, salsas, hummus, tahini, etc.) – no brine!
- Nuts, seeds, & their shells (except from black walnut!)
- Pet food (cat & dog kibble/wet food, etc.) (no raw!)
- Plain wood popsicle sticks, kabob skewers, toothpicks
- Protein & nutrition shake powders (whey, soy, etc.)
- Pumpkins/gourds (no paint/decorations or tea lights!)
- Scobies (such as from kombucha production)
- Solid & soft dairy (cheese of any kind, sour cream, yogurt, etc.) (no liquid milk! Remove plastic rinds!)
- Sushi rolls, seaweed/nori, & onigiri

NOT ACCEPTABLE 😞

- **STICKERS, RUBBER BANDS, TWIST TIES, & OTHER PLASTICS, SUCH AS THOSE ATTACHED TO FRESH PRODUCE (MUST ALL BE REMOVED & TRASHED!)**
- Alcohol or fruits soaked in alcohol (such as beer, wine, hard liquor, etc.) or large amounts of vinegar (pickled cucumbers, eggs, mushrooms, vegetables, etc. are ok)
- **Any paper or cardboard items not specifically listed as Acceptable in the column to the left (i.e.: receipts!)**
- Ashes of any kind (due to high contamination risk)
- Black walnut products (due to juglone content)
- Ceramics (such as terracotta pot pieces)
- Charcoal, coal, or “biochar” (whether “natural” or not)
- Cleaning supplies or chemical-based products (such as bleach, disinfectant/wet wipes, household cleaners, make-up, rubbing alcohol, soap, “Swiffer pads,” etc.)
- Corks of any kind (as they do not compost well)
- Diapers or feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons)
- Dryer lint (due to harmful microplastics, PFAS & dyes)
- Feces/manure from carnivorous/omnivorous animals
- 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 & yard waste like wood chips, pine cones, sticks, etc.
- Lawn grass/lawn mower clippings (due to the risk of herbicide/weed killer/Roundup contamination)
- Large or unnatural amounts of oils or liquids, such as grease/cooking oils, brine, coffee, juice, kombucha, nut milks, tea, etc. (a little is ok, such as on paper towel; natural leakage from rotting food scraps is fine)
- Leather goods/products or clothing of any kind
- Liquid dairy (such as milk, cream, “half & half,” etc.)
- Metal of any kind (including foil & staples)
- **Non-compostable/“biodegradable” plastics/foams**
- Pharmaceutical drugs/medications of any kind
- Raw/uncooked meat (with the exception of sushi)
- Rocks or stones (perlite & vermiculite in soil are ok)
- Root balls from potted mums (as they compost poorly)
- “Snotty”/used tissues or Kleenex (for health reasons)
- Sourdough bread starter (unless dried/not sticky)
- Synthetic, semi-synthetic, or inorganic fabrics of any kind (such as nylon, polyester, rayon, spandex, etc.)
- Toe or finger nail clippings (due to contamination risk)
- Wax, “baking,” or parchment paper (including muffin liners), gift wrap/tissue, or any other “non-stick” or grease/water-resistant paper

Not sure if we can accept a particular material not listed here? Contact us: www.GBCompost.com/Contact