



# SUMMER TIME, AND THE COMPOSTING'S EASY...

Composting in the summer can be associated with some unique challenges. Helpful hints....

## Kitchen Bin...

Keep the kitchen countertop container out of the sun  
Line bottom with cardboard or pieces of newspaper  
Attach charcoal briquette bag to top to absorb odor  
Keep a separate container in refrigerator for smelly items, e.g. banana peels, fish, meat, onions, etc  
Freeze compost directly in the bag.

## Green Compost Bin for curbside pickup...

Tape a bag with a charcoal briquette under lids. Replace 4-6 months.

Dry the container before adding a new liner.

**\*Use yard waste bags inside your green bin**

Cardboard box or newspapers under yard waste bags (they are compostable).

**\*If not using yard waste bags...**

Line the bottom of compost container with newspaper.

**\*Use paper bags if you still have some**

Place lighter bags on bottom and then heavier bags layering cardboard or newspaper between to absorb moisture.

**\*Sharing your green compost bin – thank you.**

Please make sure whomever you are sharing with has all the same instructions as you do.

## Notes:

Sprinkle baking soda on the newspaper

Sawdust or sawdust pellets

Mix organic tea tree oil with water - spray newspaper.

Throw a sprig of fresh mint in your compost.

Layers, layers, layers – Cardboard or dry corn husks between wet items. Shred newspapers.

Make sure lid is tight

Turn your container parallel to the curb with the wind directed to the back to help prevent the bin from tipping over.

## Dealing with pests

### **Fruit Flies...**

1. Wash your fruit!
2. Fruit flies can travel with the fruit you purchase.
3. Vacuum hose to suck them up - will kill them.
4. Trap the next generation - apple cider vinegar into a small bowl and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Poke a few holes with a toothpick to trap flies.
5. **Banana Peel Trap** - Place a banana peel in a clear plastic container. Make three or four holes in the container with a toothpick (a pin should also work). Place container near fruit bowl or compost bin. 24 hours, 99% fruit flies should be in the container.
6. Add a touch of vinegar or a couple of pinches of salt to your bin to deter pests.

### **Ants...**

- Spray organic essential oils - tea tree, peppermint or cinnamon can act as an ant deterrent.
- Ants are also not fond of white vinegar and lemon juice.
- Sprinkle "Sweet 'N Low" sugar substitute along trail and if you find where starting point is. The crystals when eaten by ants kills them. Really works and safe for pets when used correctly.

**Do NOT use a yard waste bag in place of a green composting bin!**

## IT'S SUMMERTIME AND THE COMPOSTING IS EASY

Composting in the summer often is associated with some warm weather challenges. Below are some helpful hints.

### SMALL KITCHEN BIN:

Line the bin with newspaper, cardboard, or paper towels.

If you notice any odors, you may want to keep certain compostables in a separate container in the refrigerator or freezer until pickup day.

To be sure no pests travel home on your fruit and vegetables, thoroughly wash them.

You may sprinkle a bit of white vinegar or a couple of pinches of salt into the bin to deter insects.

This bin can be thoroughly cleaned by hand or in your dishwasher and dried.

### GREEN COMPOST BIN:

To keep your large green bin clean it's best to line the bottom with newspaper, cardboard, or boxes. There are compostable yard waste bags that also work well.

To deter pests sprinkle baking soda on the liner. If you're growing mint you can also throw in some fresh sprigs.

Make sure the green bin lid is closed securely.

Your efforts to compost and recycle means there will be less trash taken to the landfill!!



# COMPOSTING EASIER THAN RECYCLING!

Alphabetized

3/25/25

Item	Compost	Recycle	Trash	Repurpose
<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>				
Bread, Pasta & Grains – Old, dry, moldy, No raw dough	x			
Cereal – Cheerios, Lucky Charms, etc	x			
Coffee Grounds & Filters – Left over coffee	x			Plants – ¼ C coffee/ ¾ C water
Dairy Products – Sour Cream, butter, but milk absorbed	x			
Eggs & Egg Shells	x			
Fish/Shellfish – All except Oyster & Mussel Shells	x			
Fruits & Vegetables – banana peels in refrig	x			
Leftovers – everything! Gravy, sauces, quiche, etc	x			
Meat & Bones – in refrig container – no odor	x			
Newspapers – line compost bins	x x	X		
Paper Ice Cream Container	x		Top?	
Paper Towels & Napkins – food/wet/wipe greasy pan	x			
<b>Pizza Boxes – To Go Boxes and Cardboard Insert</b>	x			
Seafood & Shellfish – shells, everything	x			
<b>Shredded Paper – compost bag bottom -must absorb moisture -</b>	x			
Tea Bags & Loose Tea – tear off & trash staple	x		Staple	
Uncoated Paper Bags – Paper/String handles OK	x			
Uncoated Paper Plates – absorb water? w/food OK	x			
<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>				
Aluminum foil, disposable aluminum pans (Rinse/clean)		X		
Aluminum or steel cans, utensils, pans (Rinse/clean)		X		
Bubble Wrap, Peanuts, & Plastic Air Pockets				UPS/Fed Ex (call 1 <sup>st</sup> )
Ceramic or plastic dishes				Donate
Diapers			X	
E-Waste				Staples or PG County
Facial or toilet tissue – no makeup, no snuffle residue			X	
Glass of any kind			X	
Grease or fats			X	
Household trash/litter (empty vacuum bags, dryer sheets)			X	
Kitchen Pots & Pans				Donate
Liquids of any kind			X	
Marshmallows – No clumpy stuff – can't break down			X	
Paper – foil backed or plastic backed paper			X	
Pet waste, including cat litter			X	
<b>Pizza Boxes – No frozen (Digiorno) No Plastic coated</b>			X	
Plastic bags, wrappers or film (NO #4 & #6)				Grocery store bin
Plastic jugs & bottles – with caps on		X		
Plastic utensils			X	
<b>Shredded Paper – variety – coated, colored, envelopes w/windows</b>			X	
Styrofoam – containers, pieces, etc (NO #4 & #6)				Crofton – 1298 Cronson Blvd
<b>RECYCLE RIGHT – Attached Poster –List</b>				
<b>PLASTIC RESIN ID#s – Attached Poster - List</b>				



# LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

Our curbside composting program diverts a lot of useful materials from our landfill. These natural materials, like food scraps, yard trim, paper and cardboard, and more are used to create an organic soil supplement.

## COMPOSTABLE FOOD AND PAPER MATERIALS:

- Fruits and vegetables—any kind, they don't need to be organic!
- Dairy products (milk, butter, cheese, etc.)
- Bread, pasta, grains (no raw dough)
- Seafood (including shellfish)
- Eggs and egg shells
- Paper towels and paper napkins used in your kitchen
- Coffee grounds and paper coffee filters
- Uncoated, non-waxy compostable paper plates
- Newspaper, including food-soiled newspaper
- Tea bags and loose tea
- Meat, including bones
- Pizza boxes—clean or greasy



## COMPOSTABLE YARD TRIM MATERIALS:

- Loose and bagged grass (paper bags only)
- Loose and bagged leaves (paper bags only)
- Garden plant clippings
- Green woody waste
- Tree limbs and brush (tree limbs must be tied in bundles and placed next to the wheeled green cart at the curb)
- Used or old straw and hay

**NO GREEN BIN?** Do not use a Yard Waste Bag. Ask a neighbor to share their green compost bin. Please keep their bin clean.

## What Can't I Compost?

Composting unacceptable materials can cause real issues at our facility—if you aren't sure if something is compostable, contact PGC311!

- Leftover cooking grease, fats, and oil
- Diapers
- Pet waste, including cat litter
- Plastic bags, wrappers, chip bags, or film
- Styrofoam containers
- Plastic containers, jugs, and bottles
- Aluminum or steel cans, utensils, and pans
- Aluminum foil and disposable aluminum pans
- Tires
- Facial or toilet tissue
- Oil or paint
- Household trash/litter
- Kitchen pots or pans
- Foil-backed or plastic-backed paper
- Ceramic or plastic dishes
- Sod
- Bamboo
- Rubble/construction trash
- Glass of any kind
- Dirt
- Treated lumber
- Electronics

**Pet Waste, Including Cat Litter:**  
**NO** - Pursuant to State of Maryland regulations, the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility (PGCOF) will not accept.

**Oyster and Mussel Shells**  
 Contain a high level of calcium, which will not break down during composting.