

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as food scraps, into a valuable soil amendment. The resulting decomposed matter is called compost. It is rich in nutrients and can be used as a natural fertilizer.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **It cuts down on trash and expenses.** The Charleston region throws away more than 30,000 tons of food scraps each year and food scraps make up one quarter of the collected garbage. Composting saves space and taxpayer money needed for disposal in landfills.
- **It combats climate change.** Food waste recycling will help meet area Climate Action Plan goals, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and protecting our air and water from pollution to fight climate change.
- **It protects against flooding.** Compost nourishes soil for healthier parks and gardens and increases stormwater absorption capacity.
- **It can save plants and animals.** Compost reduces the need for expensive and polluting chemical fertilizers, makes plants healthier, and can be used without harming wildlife or ecosystem health.



CHARLESTON COMPOSTS

City of Charleston • Charleston County • Mount Pleasant • Folly Beach
Isle of Palms • Sullivan's Island • North Charleston • College of Charleston

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS!

Residents in the Charleston region can recycle food scraps for **FREE** at participating drop sites. Food scraps are sent to the Bees Ferry Compost Facility, instead of the landfill, and made into compost. Get trained now:

Residents must **SIGN UP** at charleston-sc.gov/compost to participate.

AT ANY OF 20+ DROP SITE LOCATIONS

- Daniel Island
- Folly Beach
- Isle of Palms
- James Island
- Johns Island
- Mount Pleasant
- North Charleston
- Peninsula
- Sullivan's Island
- West Ashley

View sites on website map, as they are subject to change.

ITEMS ACCEPTED

- ✓ **Vegetables & Fruits**
- ✓ **Eggs and Eggshells**
- ✓ **Bread, Dough, Pasta & Grain**
- ✓ **Coffee & Tea Grounds & Filters**
- ✓ **Compostable Liquids** (e.g., soup, juices in small amounts)
- ✓ **Cooked Meats, Fish, Bones & Shells**
- ✓ **Dairy Products** (e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt)
- ✓ **Food-Soiled Paper** (e.g., paper napkins, paper towels, paper bags, paper to-go containers)
- ✓ **Processed Foods** (e.g., pizza, cereal, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes, plate scrapings)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ **NO Plastic Items** (e.g., bags, dishes, utensils, cups, Styrofoam)
- ✗ **NO Other Small Items** (e.g., produce stickers, rubber bands, twist ties)
- ✗ **NO Raw Meat** (e.g., beef, poultry, pork, seafood)
- ✗ **NO Chemical Cleaners**
- ✗ **NO Non-Food Items** (e.g., wood, metal, glass, ceramics, pet droppings, yard debris)
- ✗ **NO Fats, Oils, Grease or Non-Compostable Liquids** (e.g., vegetable oil, lard)



HOW TO STORE FOOD SCRAPS

You can store food scraps in almost any reusable container with a tight-fitting lid. You also can store them in the freezer or refrigerator.

HELP PREVENT CONTAMINATION!

Contamination is a major challenge with any compost program because it is not possible or safe to have staff sort through piles of food scraps removing items that don't belong. Preventing contamination on the front end helps to ensure the final product is free of inorganic materials and is safe to use.

Unfortunately, if any food scrap carts are contaminated with items that can't be composted, the whole cart must be disposed of in the garbage. Know what goes in and what stays out. **Remember, when in doubt, leave it out!**

To learn about **backyard composting**, visit des.sc.gov/compost

For tips to **eliminate food waste**, visit des.sc.gov/dwfc

WHEN TO DROP IT OFF

You can drop off your food scraps as often as you like, but once a week is recommended. Use your freezer to store scraps for longer periods of time in between drop offs. Generally, drop-off sites are open when each facility is open. Parks are open from dawn to dusk daily.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The program is managed by the City of Charleston, Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability with support from regional partners. Drop sites are managed and funded individually by various community partners who host a site.

To sign up and for details, visit:

charleston-sc.gov/compost

or, SCAN
QR CODE



HOW TO PARTICIPATE: STEP-BY-STEP

1 COLLECT food scraps in a sealed container or store in a freezer.

2 TAKE your food scraps to a nearby drop-off site.

3 RINSE the container.
Repeat!

For drop site locations and more information, visit charleston-sc.gov/compost.

