

Your First Compost Drop-Off

A One-Page Cheat Sheet · compostscraps.pages.dev

ALMOST ALWAYS ACCEPTED

- ✓ Fruits and vegetables (all parts — peels, pits, stems)
- ✓ Coffee grounds and paper filters
- ✓ Tea bags (paper or silk, not plastic mesh)
- ✓ Eggshells
- ✓ Bread, pasta, grains, and rice
- ✓ Nuts and nut shells
- ✓ Cut flowers and houseplants
- ✓ Small amounts of yard trimmings (at most sites)

NEVER ACCEPTED (ANY PROGRAM)

- ✗ Plastic bags — even 'biodegradable' ones
- ✗ Pet waste or cat litter
- ✗ Diapers and hygiene products
- ✗ Recyclables (glass, cans, cardboard)
- ✗ Non-food packaging or wrappers
- ✗ Produce stickers (peel them off first)
- ✗ Wax-coated paper or glossy printed paper

CHECK YOUR PROGRAM — DEPENDS ON TYPE

Meat, poultry, fish, and bones	✓ Municipal programs ✗ Community gardens
Dairy (milk, cheese, yogurt)	✓ Municipal programs ✗ Community gardens
Cooked and prepared foods	✓ Most municipal ✗ Some small sites
BPI compostable bags	✓ Kansas City ✗ Chicago (no bags at all)
Compostable foodware	✓ Some programs only — check first

5 STEPS FOR YOUR FIRST DROP-OFF

1 Find your site

Check your city's guide at compostscraps.pages.dev or becompostable.com

2 Register if needed

Some sites (Minneapolis, Dane County) require a free one-time signup

3 Collect at home

Freezer method is easiest: keep a lidded container in the freezer

4 Bring your scraps

Empty container into the bin. Take your container home and rinse it

5 Go weekly

Or every 2 weeks if you freeze — frozen scraps hold indefinitely

■ **Freezer Tip:** Keep scraps in any sealed container in the freezer. Zero odor, zero fruit flies. Drop off frozen — scraps thaw in the bin fine.