

CHARLOTTESVILLE COMPOSTS!

If you aren't composting yet, here are some tips to get started:

Did You Know?

Composting is an excellent way to recycle your kitchen and garden waste. Nature's own way of waste disposal and soil fertilization, composting is performed by naturally occurring bacteria, fungi, and insects that break down organic materials into a fine, nutrient-rich, dark, dirt-like matter called compost. Compost is an organic material that can be added to soil (known as a "soil amendment") that improves the soil structure, nutrient levels, water retention, and beneficial microbial life.



Reasons to Compost

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and lower your carbon footprint
- Makes your trash less stinky
- Reduce the amount of trash your home creates
- Enrich your soil, helping retain more moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests
- Reduce your need for chemical fertilizers
- Encourage the production of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create a rich nutrient-filled soil amendment

Questions? Feel free to reach out!



charlottesville.gov/composting
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It Starts at Home!

Composting is as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!



- 1.** Collect food scraps while cooking.
- 2.** Store your scraps in a container with a lid until ready to remove them.
- 3.** Move scraps weekly to your outdoor compost pile or curbside/drop-off location.

Tip: Freeze for longer storage without smells. Small compostable plastic bags keep things neat.

Tip: For drop-off sites, line the container with a compostable bag to keep clean and avoid spills.

Backyard What/How

Your backyard can become Compost Central! Purchase an outdoor compost bin; build a Do-It-Yourself bin out of wood, wire, or pallets; or start a pile.

All composting includes two types of ingredients: browns (things that break down slowly: dead leaves, branches, and food-soiled paper); and greens (things that quickly decompose: food scraps, coffee grounds, fresh grass clippings).

Make sure to alternate these ingredients in your bin or pile at a ratio of 3:1 browns to greens: brown materials provide carbon for your compost, and green materials provide nitrogen. Turn the compost frequently to help break down the organic matter.

Visit charlottesville.gov/backyardcompost for more tips & tricks!

What Can I Compost?

AT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

- ✓ Fruits & Vegetables
- ✓ Nuts, Grains & Rice
- ✓ Flowers
- ✓ Coffee Grounds & Filters
- ✓ Uncoated Paper
- ✓ Meat & Bones
- ✓ Milk & Yogurt
- ✓ Egg Shells
- ✓ Fats, Cooking Oils & Greases
- ✓ Certified BPI Compostable Packaging

OK FOR BACKYARD COMPOSTING:

- ✓ Fruits & Vegetables
- ✓ Nuts, Grains & Rice
- ✓ Flowers
- ✓ Coffee Grounds & Filters
- ✓ Uncoated Paper



No Backyard? Too Busy? Composting is Still Easy!

Charlottesville offers drop-off locations & curbside collection options. You bring us your food scraps & we'll handle the rest!

1. More items can be composted through drop-off locations than in backyard compost piles.
2. Drop-off locations use commercial composting facilities, ensuring that materials like compostable plastics, meats, fish, and oils fully and safely break down.
3. Find a convenient drop-off location on the City website: charlottesville.gov/composting
4. Or, look online for local composting businesses that offer curbside collection (for residents, restaurants, and businesses)!