

# What Can I Put in My Black Earth Compost Bin?

## YAY!

### Food Waste

- COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS
- BPI CERTIFIED COFFEE PODS
- NONSYNTHETIC TEA BAGS (okay to incl. staple)
- EGGS & EGGSHELLS
- MEAT & SEAFOOD (incl. bones, shells, & raw)
- LOBSTER SHELLS (makes the compost rich)
- FRUITS & VEGGIES (incl. stems, skins, pits, seeds, corn cobs, fruit from trees) (stickers removed)
- DAIRY (cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- PASTA, GRAINS & BREAD
- COOKIES, CAKE & CANDY
- NUT & COCONUT SHELLS
- COOKING OIL & GREASE (leave jar on bin)

### Household Items

- WOOD (toothpicks, popsicle sticks, chopsticks, sawdust, small wood fruit containers)
- STOVE, GRILL & FIREPLACE ASH (tie bag)
- COTTON SWABS & BALLS (no bodily fluid)
- WINE CORKS (cork, not plastic!)
- PET FOOD
- PET WASTE FROM RABBIT, CHICKEN, GUINEA PIG, HAMSTER & BIRD (incl. bedding) (no dog or cat)
- HAIR, FUR, FEATHERS (human & animal)
- HOUSE PLANTS & FLOWERS
- LEAVES & GARDEN WASTE (with purch. of stickers, see next page) (no grass or sticks over 1" dia.)

### Food Soiled Paper & Compostables

Clean paper and cardboard are better recycled. We take the following items that are food soiled, but not chemical or cleaner soiled.

- NAPKINS & PAPER TOWELS (incl. bleached) (used on food or w/ organic certified household cleaner)
- COMPOSTABLE TABLEWARE: CUPS, PLATES, UTENCILS, ETC. (MUST be BPI Certified)
- WHITE UNCOATED PAPER PLATES
- TISSUES (no bodily fluids incl. nasal mucus)
- EGG CARTONS & PAPER TOWEL TUBES
- PIZZA BOXES ONLY BPI CERTIFIED (OK next to bin)
- NEWSPAPER (no inserts or magazines)
- CARDBOARD BOXES (1- 2/week with plastic tape & labels removed)

## NAY!

### Packaging

- ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC: cups, containers, food & candy wrap, chip bags, shopping bags, garbage bags, produce bags, plastic wrap, cellophane etc.
- ABSOLUTELY NO CARTONS: milk, juice, ice cream, shelf-stable cream, broth & soup containers (they have hidden plastic & foil components)
- NO PRODUCE STICKERS, RUBBER BANDS, TIES & ALL PRODUCE & MEAT PACKAGING
- NO MEAL BOX INSULATION
- NO BIODEGRADABLE PACKING PEANUTS
- NO TAKE OUT CONTAINERS & CUPS (most are not compostable, check at purchase if BPI certified)

### Household Items

- NO BODILY FLUID (blood, mucus, snot)
- NO USED COMPOSTABLE DIAPERS (sorry!)
- NO SANITARY PRODUCTS
- NO DOG or CAT WASTE (incl. cat litter)
- NO DEAD ANIMALS
- NO GRASS CLIPPINGS (subscribe to an approved organic yard care partner and we can take it!)
- NO LAUNDRY LINT & DRYER SHEETS
- NO TEXTILES (see textile recycling on next page)
- NO DENTAL FLOSS or Q-TIPS

### Paper

- NO SHREDDED PAPER
- NO MAIL, ENVELOPES, SHINY PAPER, MAGAZINES, CEREAL BOXES (due to colored ink & plastics)
- NO PLASTIC or WAXED CARDBOARD
- NO WAX or PARCHMENT PAPER (unless BPI cert.)
- NO CHEMICALLY-SOILED PAPER (baby & disinfectant wipes, paper used w/ chemical cleaners, house paint, machine oil, etc.)

When purchasing compostable products, such as liners or tableware, they must be [BPI Certified](#). We accept polylactide (PLA) but check if it is BPI certified to confirm it is 100% PLA. Items that says 100% biodegradable or 100% recycled are NOT compostable. **Look for the BPI logo!**



# Black Earth Compost Tips

**When placing your bin on the curb always check to make sure it is visible for the driver. Make sure it is not behind an obstruction such as a tree, fence, or snowbank. Your driver will not see your bin if it is left on your porch or steps.**

## **Tips for lining your bin**

You will need to line your bin with a brown paper bag or a compostable liner. If using compostable liners, we sell two sizes: 13 gallon curbside bin liners and 3 gallon countertop container liners. You are not required to use both at the same time. You can choose which one works best for you.

The driver may flip the bin over and empty everything inside so DO NOT store liners at the bottom of the bin.

## **What if I have extra food waste?**

Aside from pizza boxes and shipping boxes everything needs to fit in your curbside bin. If you exceed this capacity regularly contact us to purchase service for a 2nd bin. If you are planning a party, and will need extra compostable waste picked up, see below for our option to purchase stickers for event collection.

## **Ways to reduce bugs and smells**

- Keep the inside of your bin dry! Squeeze out teabags for example.
- Put baking soda on the bottom of the bin
- Rinse bin after emptied
- Use compostable liners, tying off helps
- Keep bin out of the sun
- Freeze scraps from earlier in the week
- Wrap meat/fish in newspaper like a burrito

## **Textile Recycling / Yard Waste / Event Collection**

As a subscriber you can have textiles, yard waste, and event waste collected with the purchase of stickers. Just place the sticker on the bag and leave it next to your green bin for collection. See details online [here](#). Stickers are available for purchase through your [online account](#).

## **What to do if it is snowing or freezing**

Unless we notify you of a schedule change, put your bin out even when it is snowing. Make sure it is not covered by snow or hiding behind a snowbank. Your bin liner keeps the food from freezing to the side of your bin.

## **Holiday Schedule**

For most towns, the only holidays we may take off are Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. On those holidays, you may have a schedule delay. We will e-mail you ahead of time with the adjusted schedule. If your pickup day happens to fall on a holiday like Labor Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, etc. please remember to put out your bin.

## **Looking for a certified organic cleaner?**

Check [ewg.org](http://ewg.org), anything grade A or B is okay.

## **Need help? Use your [online account](#) to:**

- Purchase bin liners and stickers
- Report a missed pickup
- Change your finished compost preference
- Change your address
- Check your subscription status
- Update billing
- Ask questions

