

# COMPOST GUIDELINES

You can compost a lot more than just kitchen scraps in your curbside compost bin. Here's a breakdown of what's acceptable.

## Low-Grade Paper

- Tissues
- Paper towels & napkins
- Paper towel / toilet paper rolls
- Greasy Pizza boxes, wet or waxed cardboard
- Paper Chinese food container (all metal must be removed)
- Small paper items, pill bottle boxes, price tags, etc.
- Paper wrapping paper
- Tissue paper
- Chinnet (plain paper plates and bowls without a plastic coating)

## Other Waste

- Kitty litter
- Hair
- #7 PLA bioplastic made from corn (cups, straws, lids)
- BPI Certified compostable bags
- Plates, bowls and containers made sugarcane
- Small amounts (smears of oils)

## Kitchen Scraps

- Lobster/crab Shells
- Fruit & Vegetable scraps, including pits and seeds
- Meat, including bones
- Dairy Products
- Breads, rolls
- Eggshells
- Spoiled or moldy food
- Chopsticks and wooden stir sticks
- Coffee grounds and paper filters
- Loose tea and tea bags (no tea bag wrappers or plastic)

## Yard Waste

- Weeds, flowers
- Dirt
- Potted plants (without the container)



## Please No

- Plastic of any kind, including plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Plastic-coated paper plates, cups or other items
- Plastic or metal utensils (forks, knives, & spoons)
- Popcorn bags
- Sugar packets
- Liquids, including cooking oil or grease
- Milk or juice containers (recycle them instead)
- Dryer lint
- Foil or metal
- Tape
- Biohazards
- Diapers or sanitary items
- Soap
- Dog Waste
- Fabric
- String
- Plastic or nylon twine
- Construction debris
- Clam /Oyster Shells

You may line your container with newspapers, use paper bags to contain the waste or use BPI certified compostable bags.

Organic waste must be placed curbside inside your 13 gallon organic waste container.



## TOWN OF HAMILTON ORGANIC WASTE PROGRAM

The Town of Hamilton will pick up organic waste curbside every week on your normal trash day. The Town will issue one official 13 Gallon Compost Container and one kitchen counter collection container per eligible property.

The 13 Gallon Organic Waste Container will have the MassDEP's hot stamped on the side and come fully assembled.

For residences, businesses and private roads that share driveways and trash pick up sites it is **strongly recommended** that you mark your containers with an identifier easy for you to see and hard to remove so that your containers do not get confused with your neighbors. (Street No., etc.)

*The questions and answers below contain information on how the program works.*

### **Will my pick up day for compostable waste still be Wednesday each week?**

*Maybe. Curbside compost will now be picked up the same day as your regular trash and recycling.*

### **What type of bags can I use in my kitchen counter or 13 gallon containers keep them clean?**

*You may use paper bags or a compostable bag certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).*

### **What is BPI?**

*The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is a not-for-profit association of key individuals and groups from government, industry and academia. For more information visit [www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org)*

### **How can I tell if a bag is approved for use in my compost container?**

*To ensure that the products you buy and use are truly compostable, look for the BPI logo to provide assurance of compost ability or biodegradability.*



### **What companies currently manufacture BPI Certified Bags?**

*Glad and NaturBag are two of many manufacturers.*

### **What if I have more organic waste than will fit in my 13 gallon container?**

*You may purchase additional 13 gallon waste containers at the Hamilton Town Hall. Please do NOT put additional waste in paper bags next to your organic waste container. They will NOT be picked up.*

### **Will you take grass clippings with my organic waste?**

*No.*

### **Where can I get free compost for my garden?**

*Compost is available at the Wenham DPW yard 91 Grapevine Rd., Wenham from 7 – 3 Monday – Friday & 8 – Noon the 1st Saturday of every month.*

*Residents may pick-up only one cubic yard at one time (3' X 3' x 3'). If you have any questions, please call the Wenham Highway Department at (978) 468-5520 extension 6.*