



Residential Composting is Here!

On October 31st, the City of Portland began its residential composting program! We'll explore what this means for your home (if you live in Portland), what you can compost, and how the office composting program differs from the residential composting program.

Changes to Trash and Recycling Service:

- Your green Portland Recycles! roll cart will now be collected weekly and will include all food scraps along with yard debris.
- Garbage will no longer be offered every week. It will only be collected every other week. View the City's [E-Schedule](#) for your pick up.
- No changes to your blue Portland Recycles! roll cart or glass bin.

You may be anxiously wondering how you will survive with trash picked up only every other week. It seems like a big change and a hard challenge, but when you consider that on average, your trash is 30% compostable, it seems to be a bit more manageable. The key is to REMEMBER to put the waste in the compost and not the trash.

"At first, I thought the requirements were impossible. I have a 5-person household and I thought there was no way we could reduce our trash schedule. But once the program started, I was surprised how easy it was. We didn't have any problems making the switch."

-- OMF employee who participated in the pilot composting program last year.

Tips and Tricks

- Empty your kitchen pail into your green roll cart frequently.
- Use an optional liner for your kitchen pail - newspaper, paper bag or approved compostable bag to reduce mess.
- Sprinkle baking soda in your kitchen pail and garbage can.
- Drain any extra water before emptying your kitchen pail into the roll cart.
- Wrap food in newspaper before placing in your kitchen pail to reduce moisture.
- Freeze food items and add to roll cart on your pickup day to reduce odors.
- Wash your kitchen pail and green roll cart regularly with soap and water.
- To control odors in your large garbage can, tightly secure waste such as diapers and pet waste in smaller bags.
- Store containers out of direct sunlight.

What Goes In and What Stays Out:

Residential & Commercial

- All food scraps (including meat)
- Pizza delivery boxes
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Bones
- Eggshells
- Floral trimmings

Just Commercial

- Food soiled paper
- Uncoated paper plates
- Approved compostable plastic*

Not Compostable

- Liquids
- Cooking oil
- Glass
- Non-compostable plastic
- Metal

* Must be on the [Cedar Grove Approved Products](#) list.

Learn More:

- [Watch the three instructional videos](#) below for additional tips and tricks.
- [Portland Composts website](#) from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has more info and resources.



1 Kitchen Pail Care



2 Collecting Food Scraps



3 Green Cart Care