

# HOW TO RECYCLE MIXED FOOD & YARD WASTE



## What is food and yard waste?

Food waste and yard waste is composted. This nutrient compost is then used by the agriculture community to help their crops grow stronger and healthier.

Food waste is spoiled food, vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds, coffee filters, tea bags, cooked meat and bones, dairy, paper towels, paper napkins, non-shiny paper plates, real wine corks, pet hair and pizza boxes.

Yard waste is trimmings from the yard including grass, pine needles, small branches, weeds, leaves and twigs. No palm fronds, blackberry vines or Scotch broom is allowed in yard waste.



## Why compost food & yard waste?

Organics that are dumped in the landfill breakdown in an anaerobic environment. This traps green house gases that take place as the organics break down. Excessive green house gases contribute to damaging the environment.

If organics are composted instead, considerably less green house gases occur. The end product, compost, is then used to grow more food. It provides nutrients to the soil and helps conserve water. Composting organics also allows landfills to last longer because they aren't being needlessly filled with yard waste and food waste.

Because of these reasons and more, several states in the U.S. have already adopted organic waste programs, with more states in the works.



## What about bags labeled compostable?

Nevada County's compost facility takes 60 days to compost organics.

Compostable produce bags are not accepted as organic waste because they take longer than the 60 days to break down. These can be put in the regular trash and they will break down in the landfill



## Good practices

If you have WM curbside service, layer the organics cart with food waste and yard waste, along with used paper towels and napkins. This will help to absorb liquids.

Kitchen compost pails can be lined with a paper bag which can also go in the organics cart.

Or use a small cardboard box. Soiled cardboard, including pizza boxes, can also go in the organics cart.



**NEVADA  
COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

**Solid  
Waste**

[solidwaste@nevadacountyca.gov](mailto:solidwaste@nevadacountyca.gov)  
[nevadacountyca.gov/solidwaste](http://nevadacountyca.gov/solidwaste)  
950 Maidu Ave., Nevada City  
530-265-7111

For more information, visit: [nevadacountyca.gov/foodwaste](http://nevadacountyca.gov/foodwaste)