

Composting Made Easy Why, What, and How

Why is composting important?

We all toss food scraps, coffee grinds, and many other things in the garbage that are clean, organic materials. These materials do not need to go to the landfill, where they take up space and contribute to the more than 1500 pounds of trash that we each produce every year. Composting diverts these materials from landfills, where they have a negative environmental impact, and uses them to enrich soil. Some of the other benefits of composting include: cleans up (remediates) contaminated soil, prevents pollution, and reduces the need for water, fertilizer, and pesticide.

For more information on the environmental benefits of composting, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/rrr/composting/benefits.htm>

How can I compost if I have nowhere to store it?

There are multiple compost services available in Philadelphia that will pick up your compostable waste on a regular basis. We recommend Bennett Compost, who gives you a sealed bucket to store your waste and picks up your compostables once per week. They charge \$10 per month (four pick-ups/month). The compost produced from Bennett Compost's collections is used at local farms such as Weaver's Way Farm in Mt. Airy.

To get started, contact: Timothy Bennett,
timothy.bennett@bennettcompost.com
For more information, visit their website:
<http://www.bennettcompost.com/Home>

Want more information? E-mail
Laura Boudreau at
boudreau.laura@gmail.com



What to Compost

A lot of materials can be composted. This list is by no way all-inclusive, but highlights many of the items that compost pick-up services in Philadelphia accept:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Coffee grounds and filter
- Teabags
- Eggshells
- Nutshells
- Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- Flowers
- Biodegradable plates, cups, and cutlery
- Hair and fur
- Newspaper, clean paper, cardboard (can also be recycled)



<http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/pennenv/exec.html>

