

Compost



The Connection

Decaying organic matter from dead wood and leaves is the building block of healthy soil in a forest. The types of organic matter from our kitchens and yards (food, leaves, grass clippings, limbs, etc.) can all break down into an organically rich soil component called compost. Consider composting these organic materials at home or through a compost service, in turn, supporting trees, plants, and gardens.



Take Action

Upon taking this action, you commit to composting your food waste to earn 1 acorn!

Acorns



Instructions

- ☐ You must commit to composting (ways to composting below).

Composting Home Service: Compost Now

Compost Now offers a weekly doorstep food waste collection service. Compost Now provides you with a bin, you fill it with your food waste and set it on your doorstep on your collection day. You can even earn back compost or choose to donate it to a local community garden. It is an excellent option for those who do not want to compost at home (Compost Now, n.d).

How much does it cost?

- One Bin, Weekly Collection: \$39
(One 4-gallon bin is swapped weekly. Recommended for 1-3 person households.)
- Two Bins, Weekly Collection: \$49
(Two 4-gallon bins are swapped weekly. Recommended for 4 or more person households.)

Contact Information

Website: www.compostnow.org/

Phone Number: (919) 526-0403. Support Hours are Monday - Friday (9 - 5 pm)

Compost Commercial Services

Compost Now

Compost Now offers an easy-to-launch food waste collection service that required no additional work from cleaning staff or property management. Compost Now provides your location with a bin that your community fills with your food waste. They collect the bin weekly. It is an excellent option for those places of business that need a composting take-away service. They even provide regular impact reporting to help you measure, track, share and celebrate your sustainability efforts. You can even choose to share the produced compost with local community gardens and urban farms (Compost Now, n.d).

To get started you can request a quote on their website:

- Website: <https://compostnow.org/office/>
- Phone Number: (919) 526-0403. Support Hours are Monday - Friday (9 - 5 pm)

Goodr

Goodr offers an end-to-end solution that helps businesses create impact by picking up edible food waste and donating it to a local non-profit and then working with certified organic waste haulers to recycle inedible food items. They can also help streamline your entire waste management.

To get started you can get in touch with them

- Website: <https://goodr.co/>
- Address: 1000 Marietta St NW, Suite 224 Atlanta, GA 30318
- Phone Number: (404) 261-0211
- Email: info@goodr.co

Compost at Home

The Basics

Depending on the scale and type, composting at home can be a simple process (like a cold open compost pile) or a more complicated science (such as hot methods and worm composting). Yet before diving in, it is first important to consider which method of Composting is appropriate for the household by considering the property, the available time you have to compost, and how much waste (plus what type) you produce (Hu, 2020).

1. **Consider the location**: A dry, shady location is best with enough room to allow a 3-foot by 3-foot by 3-foot minimum cubic space for one pile but a 6-foot by 6-foot by 6-foot space is recommended. You also need to consider the possibility of the compost pile attracting animals (including your pets) when selecting the location. One other main consideration is smell, while most well-maintained compost piles do not smell, you want to avoid unpleasant odors in a part of the yard you frequent.
2. **Consider your time**: Composting takes monitoring and management. You will need to be able to commit to taking care of your compost pile weekly

which might involve adding your food waste and dried vegetation to the compost, aerating and turning your compost, and (if needed) adjusting for moisture, temperature, and any animal issues. There is also the issue of what to do with your compost once it is made. Compost is great for fertilizing your garden and trees but it will also take some time for you to move and apply your finished compost.

3. **Consider how much and what kind of waste:** For an at-home composting station, the minimum recommended size is a 3-foot cube but no more than a 5-foot cube. You will fill this compost pile up in layers until it reaches its maximum size. However, until it turns into compost, you might need a second compost pile that you can fill up while your first pile continues to decompose.

At home, you are more limited in what you can add to your compost pile. You can add common items like vegetables, fruits, paper products, and coffee but greases, fats, and animal products are hard to compost at home. These items that come out of the kitchen are known as “greens” but, for successful composting, you will also need “browns.” Greens are your fresh materials with higher water content and browns can be dried/dead leaves, dead twigs/branches, dry straw/sawdust, and paper. A general rule of thumb is for every 1 part of green you want to add 2-4 parts browns. So you will need a substantial source of browns to compost successfully.

Composting Guides

- Composting in piles and bins
 - <https://youtu.be/9zvFresyPmA>
- Food Well Alliance Composting Resource Guide
 - <https://www.foodwellalliance.org/compost>
- Georgia Recycles Composting Resource Guide
 - <https://www.georgiarecycles.org/tools-resources/citizen-resource-guides/composting-in-georgia/>
- National Resource Defense Council Composting 101
 - <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/composting-101>

Compost Drop-off Locations

Drop-Off

One option aside from paying for a service such as compost now or composting in your yard is to collect your compost and drop off the compost at a location that accepts public composting ingredients. Check your municipality or local community garden to see if they accept compost at a drop-off location. For some already identified options in the Atlanta area check out this list below:

Wylde Center

Free drop-off and they accept compost from the public any time during daylight hours, any day of the week at three different locations (Wylde Center, n.d).

- Oakhurst Garden: 435 Oakview Rd Decatur, GA 30030: "Walk down our driveway to our chicken coop, turn left and walk straight until you hit the bins. Place scraps only in the leftmost bin."
- Edgewood Garden: 1503 Hardee St NE, Atlanta, GA 30307: "The bins can be found at the back of the garden behind the chicken coop."
- Sugar Creek: 415 East Lake Drive, Decatur: "The back of the Oakhurst Presbyterian Church parking lot. You may drop off your scraps in the bins located on the far side of the tool shed."
- Visit: <https://www.wyldecenter.org/compost/>

Items Accepted

- Raw kitchen scraps like fruit peels and vegetable trimmings, eggshells (but not whole eggs), paper towels that have been used to wipe up food and drinks but not toxic spills or cleaners. Uncoated paper products like paper towels and toilet paper holders, coffee grounds and filters, and tea (both loose and in bags).

NOT accepted

- "Compostable" bags (meant for municipal facilities), cooked food (leftovers), cheese, bread, meat, or any fats/oil. No plastics of any kind, including produce stickers.

CHaRM

Only for residential services and costs \$5 per 4 gallons, you must make an appointment to drop off items. Drop-off appointments are easy to set online and are available: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 9 am - 2 pm (CHaRM, n.d).

- CHaRM Hill Street: 1110 Hill St SE Atlanta, GA 30315
- Phone: 404-600-6386
- Website: <https://livethrive.org/charm/book-an-appointment/>

References

CHaRM. (n.d). Book An Appointment. Live Thrive.

<https://livethrive.org/charm/book-an-appointment/>

Compost Now. (n.d). Home. Compost Now. <https://compostnow.org/home/>

Hu, S. (2020, July 20). Composting 101. Our Stories: Guide.

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/composting-101>

Wylde Center. (n.d). Compost. Wylde Center. <https://www.wyldecenter.org/compost/>