

2012-Or-____

**AN ORDINANCE
of the
CITY OF
MINNEAPOLIS**

By Gordon

Amending Title 12, Chapter 244 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Housing: Maintenance Code.

The City Council of the City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Section 244.770 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

244.770. Composting. (a) *Defined.* For the purposes of this article, composting is a microbial process that converts plant materials to a usable organic soil amendment or mulch.

(b) *Compost containers.* Composting shall be conducted within an ~~enclosed container(s) not to exceed five feet by five feet by five feet for lots less than five thousand (5,000) square feet, two (2) five-foot by five-foot by five-foot container(s) for lots five thousand (5,000) to ten thousand (10,000) square feet, and three (3) five-foot by five-foot by five-foot container(s) for lots greater than ten thousand (10,000) square feet~~ a covered or uncovered container, enclosed on all vertical sides. Containers shall be of a durable material; ~~including, but not limited to, sturdy woven wire fencing, rot-resistant wood, or a commercially-purchased composting unit which will provide for adequate aeration.~~ Containers and shall be constructed and maintained in a structurally sound manner. Wood used in the construction of a compost container must be sound and free of rot.

(c) *Size.* The maximum size for a compost area on lots with a residential structure shall be two hundred and forty-five (245) cubic feet for lots smaller than five thousand (5,000) square feet, four hundred and five (405) cubic feet on lots five thousand (5,000) to ten thousand (10,000) square feet, and five hundred (500) cubic feet on lots over ten thousand (10,000) square feet. The maximum size on lots without a residential structure shall be four hundred and five (405) cubic feet on lots smaller than five thousand (5,000) square feet, seven hundred and twenty (720) cubic feet on lots five thousand (5,000) to ten thousand (10,000) square feet, and one thousand, one hundred and twenty-five (1,125) cubic feet on lots larger than ten thousand (10,000) square feet.

(e d) *Location on property.* ~~The compost container(s) shall be located in the rear yard no closer than one foot to any rear or side property line~~ not be located closer than one (1) foot from the rear property line and shall not be located in any required front or side yard as defined in the zoning code, nor closer than twenty (20) feet to any habitable building, other than the resident's

own home off of the subject property.

(d ~~e~~) *Compost materials.* ~~Only grass clippings, leaves, weeds that have not gone to seed, nondiseased plants, trimmings less than one-fourth inch in diameter, straw, sawdust, wood ashes, fruit or vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and commercially available compost ingredients may be placed in the compost container(s).~~ Compost piles shall include an appropriate mix of nitrogen-rich materials (or "greens") and carbon-rich materials (or "browns") to reduce odor and ensure adequate composting. Meat, bones, fat oils, grease, dairy products, diseased plant material in which the disease vector cannot be rendered harmless through the composting process, feces, plastics or synthetic fibers shall not be placed in the compost container(s).

(e ~~f~~) *Maintenance.* Compost materials shall be layered, aerated, moistened, turned, and managed and covered during inclement weather to promote effective decomposition of the materials in a safe, secure and sanitary manner. Compost materials shall be covered with a layer of material such as leaves, straw, wood chips, or finished compost to reduce odor.

(~~f~~ g) *Abatement.* All compost containers and/or compost materials not in compliance with this section shall be declared a public nuisance and are subject to abatement as provided in Chapter 227 of this Code. In addition, the director may require individuals whose compost containers and/or materials are not in compliance with this section to attend a Master Composter or similar educational program as a condition of continuing to compost on a subject property.