

Changes to Yard Waste Collection

All bagged yard waste must be in compostable bags



Beginning with the 2012 Yard Waste Season, residents who dispose of bagged yard waste through the City's Yard Waste Collection Program must use compostable bags or reusable containers. Acceptable bags include *Kraft (paper) bags* or *compostable plastic bags*. Acceptable containers must be less than 33 gallons in size, with sturdy handles.

Examples of acceptable paper and compostable bags.



Common questions answered

When do I have to use a compostable bag?

Compostable bags are required for bagged yard waste collected through the City's Yard Waste Collection Program. Those that choose to deliver and dispose of their yard waste at a private compost site will not be affected.

Does this affect my regular garbage collection?

This change only affects yard waste collection. You may continue to use plastic bags for your garbage collection.

Why is using compostable bags important?

After your yard waste is picked up, it is delivered to a compost facility. Plastic bags must be separated from the yard waste increasing processing costs and resulting in lower quality compost. Even when the plastic bags are separated from the yard waste, plastic contamination is still found in the compost.

Using compostable bags or reusable containers will greatly reduce the amount of plastic being sent to local composting facilities. This will reduce processing costs and enhance the quality of the finished compost.

What are the alternatives to using compostable plastic bags?

If you prefer to not purchase compostable bags, you may use your own reusable containers for unbagged yard waste, compost your yard waste on your property, or use a mulching lawn mower.



What kind of reusable container is acceptable?

Reusable containers must be less than 33 gallons in size and have sturdy handles for crews to use during collection. Full containers must weigh less than 40 pounds. When using your own container, leaves and other vegetation should be unbagged. All brush and branches must be less than 3 feet long, and less than 3 inches in diameter. Yard waste stickers are available to identify your reusable yard waste container. To request yard waste stickers call Solid Waste and Recycling, 612-673-2917. The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen containers.

What happens if I do not use a compostable bag?

If your yard waste is left at your collection point for pick-up in a non-compostable plastic bag, the yard waste crew will not collect it.

How can I tell if a compostable plastic bag meets the requirements?

Compostable bags are usually clear or tinted a translucent shade of green, white, or pink; however color is not a sure way of determining the compostability of a plastic bag. Compostable plastic bags should clearly state that they meet ASTM D6400 standards for composting, and they should be marked "compostable." Bags marked "biodegradable" or "degradable" do not meet the state law.



Look for the logos above for certified compostable plastic. They mean that the bag meets standards required under the law to be considered compostable.

Where can I buy compostable plastic bags?

Most home improvement, grocery and hardware stores now carry compostable plastic bags.

Will the compostable plastic bags start to breakdown if they are stored for a long period of time?

The shelf life of compostable plastic bags is approximately one to three years. Storing compostable plastic bags in a cool, dry place will help them last longer. Make sure to review the label for the product-specific shelf life and purchase accordingly.

Yard Waste Preparation Rules

Materials accepted	Preparation requirements
Leaves and other vegetation Includes acorns, bark, garden plants, grass clippings, pine cones, pine needles, twigs, straw or hay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bag in Kraft (paper) bags, compostable plastic bags, or place unbagged in a reusable container with handles. Each bag or container must weigh less than 40 pounds.
Brush and branches Brush and small branches must be less than 3 inches in diameter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bundle with twine or rope. No wire. Each bundle must be less than 3 feet long. Each bundle must weigh less than 40 pounds.



Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Call 612-673-2917 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste

If you need this material in alternative formats, call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov.

Deaf and hard of hearing persons may use a relay service to call 311 agents at 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

ATTENTION.....If you want help translating this information, call 311

ATENCIÓN.....Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700

OGOW.....Haddii aad dooneysa in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo laceg la'aan wac 612-673-3500
 CEEB TOOM...Yog koj xav tau kev pab txahis cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800