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## ACCEPTABLE COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS



Fruits/Vegetables



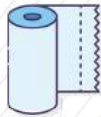
Dairy products



Tea bags/Coffee grounds and filters



Bread/Grains



Napkins/Paper Towel (without chemicals)



Meats/Bones



Grease



Eggshells



BPI Certified Products

### BPI Certified Compostable Ware

BPI labeled products, i.e. compostable bags, containers, silverware, etc.



Biodegradable Products Institute

## WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material that has been sanitized through the generation of heat and stabilized to the point that it is beneficial to plant growth.

## HOW IS COMPOST MADE?

There are many ways to make compost, but these basic principles apply to all composting processes:

- Combine organic material (leaves, sticks, food scraps).
- Add moisture.
- Continue adding organic material over time.
- Mix to incorporate new material, moisture, and oxygen.



Watch me!



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## BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING:

- Fights climate change - Reduces greenhouse gas emissions at the landfill, sequesters carbon from the atmosphere when applied to soil.
- Improves public health - Reduces effects of erosion and drought; improves soil, plant health, and water quality.
- Reducing pollution - Replacement for chemical fertilizers, which cause eutrophication, algal blooms, and fish die offs.
- Landfill diversion - Building landfills is expensive, diverting organics extends the life of existing landfills, and compost facilities will never "fill up" like landfills.
- Circular economy and jobs - Composting turns waste products into new, valuable resources that can be sold back into the community, generating local revenue and new jobs.

## BENEFITS OF USING COMPOST:

- Improves the soil structure, porosity, and density, thus creating a better plant root environment.
- Increases infiltration and permeability of heavy soils, thus reducing erosion and runoff.
- Improves water holding capacity, thus reducing water loss and leaching in sandy soils.
- Supplies a variety of macro and micronutrients.
- May control or suppress certain soil-borne plant pathogens.
- Supplies significant quantities of organic matter.
- Improves cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils and growing media, thus improving their ability to hold nutrients for plant use.
- Supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media.
- Improves and stabilizes soil pH.
- Can bind and degrade specific pollutants.

Sources:

1. Excerpt from the 'Field Guide to Compost Use,' 2001, The United States Compost Council.
2. United States Compost Council. (n.d.). *Why implement organics collection programs and/or composting operations.* <https://hub.compostingcouncil.org/why-implement-organics-collection-programs-and-or-composting-operations/>.



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