

# ORGANICS FAQ's



- **Allowable paper and cardboard:** Think of paper/cardboard in two categories. One is paper/cardboard that does not have a coating, such as paper napkins, paper egg crates, soiled paper bags, and delivery style pizza boxes. These items can be thrown straight into the yard waste/organics (YW/O) cart. Other paper/cardboard that is coated, such as paper plates, cups, containers, bowls, wax paper and fast food wrappers, juice cartons, etc. must have the [BPI Certification](#) on the packaging when purchased. If items do not have this certification, do not place them in the YW/O cart. General paper/cardboard that is not soiled should be recycled in the single-sort recycling cart first. Milk and juice cartons can also go into the single-sort cart. *Unfortunately, freezer boxes are not allowed in either cart.*
- Fast food paper bags can go into the YW/O cart, but not the wax coated food wrapping or containers.
- All food and food scraps can go into the YW/O cart, including raw meat and fat.
- The free organics kitchen kit consists of a small basket and a roll of bags with instructions on proper organics recycling.
- The 2-3 gallon compostable bags for the kitchen kit can be purchased at most grocery and hardware stores, normally in the same area as trash bags. Look for the [BPI Certification](#) on the packaging.
- **Wood chips:** Wood chips can go into the YW/O cart, but not “chunks” of wood. Tree waste that is too woody will not decompose within the 90 days needed for normal yard/food waste, and the wood “chunks” cause damage to the final screening machine. Rule of thumb is any branch that is or was over 4 inches in diameter is too woody for normal composting. These woody items can be brought to the Anoka County [tree waste site](#) in Coon Rapids.
- There is no need to bag or bundle yard waste and brush. It can be thrown straight into the YW/O cart. Extra bags of yard waste and bundles of brush should be placed on the street curb during the yard waste season.
- We ask that the YW/O cart be placed on the street curb from April through November because the hauler must already drive up and down every street to pick up bagged and bundled yard waste. If it is not possible to put the cart on the curb, households may request a waiver from the City. During the winter, December through March, YW/O carts will be emptied from the alley, if you have one.
- Duplexes can share a YW/O cart and will receive two kitchen kits. Townhomes can organize drop-off locations within the association zone.
- Multi dwelling properties, i.e. apartments, condos, etc. can order organic carts for their buildings as well and each unit will receive a kitchen kit.