

# Frequently Asked Questions



## **Why should we compost?**

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Composting has many benefits! Food scraps are highly recyclable through composting. Composting reduces the waste stream, which saves landfill space for items that can't be recycled. Composting can help reduce waste disposal costs, especially for large waste generators. Composting is one of the most effective ways to reduce the pollution that causes climate change. The finished compost that results from the composting process has many horticultural uses and applications.

## **How does composting work?**

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Composting is a natural process where organic materials (like food scraps, yard trimmings, and animal manures) are mixed together and managed in a controlled way. A complex food web of soil organisms work to break down, or decompose, the plant materials. As the soil organisms work to break down the materials, the compost pile will heat up. By providing consistent management for the chemical, physical, and biological processes at work, composters create an ideal environment for the soil organisms to thrive - and the end product is called compost.

## **How much space is needed?**

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Very little space is needed. A two gallon countertop container can be used to collect food scraps and plate scrapings during the day. Regularly dump the bucket into a larger container, such as a designated tote bin for food scraps.

## **Will collecting food scraps create odors or attract pests?**

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With sanitary management techniques and best practices, it's easy to prevent nuisances like odors and pests. Food scraps should be stored in a sealed, leak-proof container and the container should be regularly emptied and rinsed clean.

## **Is there a lot of maintenance involved?**

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No! The number of regular drop-offs you make to Town of Eastchester Drop-off depends on the amount of food scraps you generate. In general, plan to drop off food waste once per week. We recommend keeping collection bins lined with compostable bags to further reduce any maintenance of cleaning the collection bins.

## **Should we use compostable bags?**

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Yes! Compostable bags help keep your food scrap collection containers clean and sanitary, while reducing the maintenance required to wash and rinse the containers. Compostable bags also make unloading at Town of Eastchester Drop-off easier. Only use compostable bags that are BPI certified compostable products.

## **What is the location of the drop-off and hours?**

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This is a residential food scrap program only. Residents can dispose off their food scraps loose or within a BPI Certified Compostable Bag 24/7 within designated containers at the Highway Department located at the dead end of Farella Way.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Why does Town of Eastchester require compostable products to be BPI certified?**

BPI stands for Biodegradable Products Institute, and BPI provides a certification and labeling system for packaging that assures compostable products meet certain scientific standards for industrial composting. BPI certified compostable products are tested to meet the ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards.

ASTM (the American Society for Testing and Materials) is the industry technical standard based on pass/fail criteria for compostability using test methods and third party verification. Approved packaging must be easily identifiable as certified compostable, such as clearly printed COMPOSTABLE, clearly labeled BPI, or have coloring such as green colored bags, green stripes on cups, etc. This helps our operations team rule out contaminants and process material more effectively. Visit [www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org) for a list of products.