

There are over 3100 organic waste collection programs nationwide serving 2.4 million homes. Out of the 37 million tons of food waste generated in the U.S. only 5% is being captured to be processed into compost leaving the other 95% going to a landfill or Waste-to-Energy plant.

Compost added to gardens, construction sites, and poor soils makes great things happen! Compost is a unique soil amendment because of its ability to hold moisture and soluble minerals.

Properly composted organics are beneficial. It maximizes plant growth; it's effective at preventing soil erosion; it aids in stream and land reclamation; it helps with storm water management and construction sites; it reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides; and overall it can improve soil health by increasing the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil.

Thank you for participating in this program. According to the EPA more food reaches landfills and incinerators than any other single material in our everyday trash. Food waste shouldn't be burned or landfilled. It's wet and heavy, which doesn't make burning it at a Waste-to-Energy facility (as we do in Connecticut) efficient for energy combustion and if landfilled, it creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is twenty-three times more efficient at trapping heat than CO<sub>2</sub>. In fact, the US EPA has identified landfills as the single largest source of methane.

For more information on the benefits of compost, visit [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org).

## Questions or Concerns?

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[www.hrra.org/organics-food-scraps-wilton](http://www.hrra.org/organics-food-scraps-wilton)



## Wilton ORGANICS (Food Scraps Recycling) Drop-Off Program **GUIDE**



## A Successful program depends on you!

Place only the acceptable items into your kitchen collection bin. You may line your bin with a compostable bag. *(Regular plastic bags are **never allowed**.)* Store your kitchen bin in a convenient location, on the counter, under the sink, or mounted to the inside of a cupboard door.

*\*Important, do not tie a knot in the compostable bag. The knot will not compost at the same rate as the rest of the material. Please just tuck the top under and place in your large carry container.\**

Empty your kitchen bin into your 6 gallon carry container every 2-3 days to prevent flies and odor.

Be sure to lock your carry container with the handle and/or bungee cord. This will prevent spills, animals and odor.

Bring your carry container to the Recycling Center as needed. There is no additional fee.

Participants will receive free compost annually. More information about the compost program is available at [www.hrra.org/organics-food-scraps-wilton](http://www.hrra.org/organics-food-scraps-wilton)



## Acceptable Food Waste Items



Fruits, Nuts & Vegetables

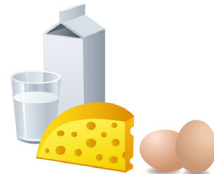
**\*\*Remove bands, ties & stickers\*\***



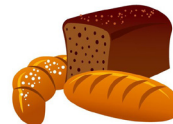
Coffee Grounds, Filters & Tea bags



Household Plants & Flower Bouquets



Dairy Products & Egg Shells



Bread, Pasta & Grains



Sauces, Soup & Gravy



Plate Scrapings



Meat & Poultry (bones also)  
Fish (including shellfish)



Plastic bags are **never allowed** in the bins. Plastic does not biodegrade and will contaminate the end product of compost. Compostable bags are available from the HRRRA.

Cleaning wipes are **never allowed** in the bin. They also do not biodegrade and will contaminate the compost.

Wash your kitchen bin and carry container with mild detergent as needed. It will help reduce odors.

To reduce odor and minimize mess, you can line the bottom of your bin with a sheet of newspaper or a paper bag.

*(Do not put whole newspapers in your bin)* one or two sheets will help absorb any liquids that may leak from the compostable bags.

Store your carry container in a cool place to prevent odor. Heat helps the material to begin to break down and decompose creating odor. Consider leaving it in your garage, basement or in a shady area outside your home.

To prevent animals from getting into your carry container, apply a little concentrated household cleaner/soap to the outside of the bin. It works as a deterrent to critters trying to investigate the contents of the bin. Secure your lid with a bungee cord.

In the warmer months consider freezing your scraps until the day of disposal.