

# What is Compostable?

What we can, and cannot, compost at Black Bear Composting.

## Yes ✓

All food scraps, cooked or raw. This includes:

- all fruit and vegetable pits
- all dairy products
- coffee grounds and paper filters
- tea bags made of paper
- nuts and shells
- eggshells
- old herbs and spices
- depackaged old condiments from the fridge

Bones, meat, seafood, including oyster shells

Pet waste bagged in compostable\* or paper bags

Pet food and treats including rawhides and bones

Most cat litters including clay-types, bagged in paper or compostable bags

Food soiled paper products like:

- Paper towels
- Paper napkins
- Chinet-type, white, non-glossy paper plates
- Pizza boxes
- Paper sandwich wrappers
- Paper cupcake and muffin liners
- Tissues

Non-plastic-coated paper and cardboard, including glossy paper, that is free of tape, staples and plastic labels. Note that recycling clean and dry paper is preferable to composting it.

Waxed cardboard boxes. These cannot be recycled.

Waxed paper and parchment paper

[BPI-certified](#) compostable plastic products like:

- hot cups and lids
- cold cups and lids
- eating utensils
- straws
- bags (must have "compostable" labeling on the bags themselves, not just the packaging)

Newspaper and droppings from the bottom of bird cages

Small, untreated wooden implements like:

- Toothpicks
- Bamboo skewers
- Disposable wooden chopsticks
- Wooden coffee stirrers
- Popsicle sticks

Soap slivers

Real corks (vs plastic corks)

House plants and potting soil (so long as it does not contain styrofoam balls; perlite is fine)

Yard waste including:

- invasive weeds like garlic mustard
- alleopathic plants and nuts like black walnut
- grass clippings
- shrub and tree prunings, branches under two inches in diameter
- leaves and pine needles

Hemp twine (no other types of twine or string)

Old loofahs and natural sponges

Hair, fur, feathers, nail clippings

Unpainted sheet rock, chalk

Christmas trees, wreaths, and pumpkins. Must be free of non-compostable decorations and metals.

Dyper brand compostable diapers (no other brands at this time)

\* Please note the wild world of "green" poop bags on the market. Only use ones clearly labeled as "compostable" on each bag. Unfortunately "biodegradable" or just saying "corn starch-based" or "earth friendly" does not necessarily mean they are compostable.

## No X

Plastics (unless specifically labeled as compostable), Styrofoam, metals, foil, glass, rocks

Most food-packaging

Plastic lined paper products. These include:

- most paper cups
- sugar packets
- ice cream cartons
- milk and similar drink carton
- paper plates and bowls with a shiny, colored surface
- paper-based frozen food boxes

Produce stickers

Receipt paper (unless BPA-free)

Wet wipes (unless specifically labeled as compostable)

Dryer sheets

Microwave popcorn bags

Tree branches over two inches in diameter

Treated wood

Herbicide-treated lawn clippings

Textiles/ fabrics, including burlap, even if made of organic materials (unless specifically labeled as compostable)

String, rope, and any twine except for hemp twine

Rubber and latex items like:

- rubber bands
- chewing gum
- latex gloves
- rubber balloons

Twist ties

Bags and plastic utensils not labeled as "compostable" on the products themselves even if their packaging and/or online description says they are compostable

Bags labeled as "biodegradable" and not also "compostable"



**biodegradable ≠ compostable**

**BPI-certified compostables will have a logo similar to this:**

