

FREE COMPOST BINS

FREE compost bins are available to residential curbside customers at our Central and Southern Recycling Centers and the Recycling and Waste Reduction Division office (Heritage Complex).

For more information call **410-222-7951**.

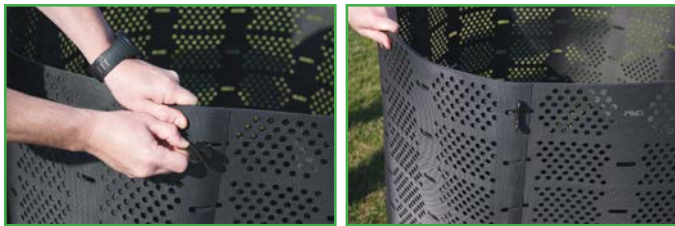
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Recycling office is closed to the public. Residents **MUST** call 410-222-7951 in advance for curbside pickup instructions.

Compost Bin Specifications

- 44.5" diameter
- 36" H x 142" L
- made of 50 mil thick recycled plastic
- holds up to one cubic yard of material



The hoop-style compost bin we offer now comes with several simple 2" plastic closure keys. No more nuts, bolts, and washers to assemble. Just insert the key into the slot and turn.



Each box contains one compost bin, instructions, and closure keys.

Don't forget to recycle the GEOBIN box!

Backyard Composting

The Eco-Friendly Solution for Yard Waste and Kitchen Scraps



Recycling in our County is a priority. To learn about all the ways Anne Arundel County makes recycling easy for you, visit www.RecycleMoreOften.com



**DPW
& YOU**

**EVERY ITEM YOU RECYCLE
SAVES YOU MONEY AND
LANDFILL SPACE.
410-222-7951**

**Recycle
More Often. com**

HOW TO MANAGE ORGANIC WASTE AT HOME

Backyard Composting - It's an easy and rewarding way to break down the organic matter of yard waste and food scraps into a dark, rich, and crumbly substance called humus, an excellent soil supplement.

Grass-cycle - Mow it high and let it lie. Mowing high helps the lawn crowd out weeds. A mulching mower will leave clippings in an even layer on your lawn. Grass clippings are 75-85% water, so you can water less by leaving them on your lawn. The clippings also return nutrients to the soil.

How to compost

Simply place all your yard waste in a pile or bin in a partly shaded part of your yard and let the natural process of composting begin. About 29% of residential yard waste can be composted including:

- Leaves
- Grass Clippings
- Yard Trimmings
- Wood Chips
- Hay and Straw
- Used Potting Soil
- Food Scraps such as egg shells, vegetables, fruit peelings, coffee grounds and tea bags

You can also include some household waste items such as shredded newspaper or cold wood ashes from the fireplace in your compost pile.

- Alternate layers of organic waste, separating layers with ordinary non-glossy newsprint
- Keep moist (not wet, but moist—like a squeezed out sponge)
- Turn every 4 to 6 weeks for proper aeration
- Add thin layers of soil to improve the process

When the compost is ready (typically takes 2-3 months)

- Compost is dark in color
- Smells earthy and rich

Do not compost:

- Bones*, meat scraps*, branches, twigs, or dairy products*
- * These items can be composted at our County Recycling Centers. Visit www.aacounty.org and search "Food Scraps" to learn more.



WHY COMPOST IN MY BACKYARD?

Curbside Yard Waste Costs

Collecting and processing yard waste into compost is expensive. The cost of this service is paid by our curbside customers.

By recycling your yard waste into compost at home, you can reduce these costs.

Better yet, the many benefits of composting will remain in your own yard. Compost replaces nutrients in the soil which improve the growth of flowers, vegetables, shrubs and other plants. By replacing these nutrients, compost reduces the need for expensive chemical fertilizers. It also improves moisture retention, moderates temperatures, controls weeds, and decreases soil erosion, resulting in healthy, fertile soil for your plants.

HOW DO I START BACKYARD COMPOSTING?

The least expensive and easiest way to start composting is get a **FREE** bin. These plastic bins are available to County residential customers at the following locations:

Recycling and Waste Reduction Division Office

2662 Riva Road (Suite 490); Annapolis, MD 21401, MON-FRI (8am – 5pm)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Recycling office is closed to the public. Residents MUST call 410-222-7951 in advance for curbside pickup instructions.

Central Recycling Center

389 Burns Crossing Road; Severn, MD 21144, MON-SAT (8am – 4pm)

Southern Recycling Center

5400 Nutwell Sudley Road; Deale, MD 20751, MON-SAT (8am – 4pm)

Once you are an avid composter, there are a variety of larger, commercially available composting bins on the market for you to choose. Just remember that composting can be done in a simple pile or a variety of bins. For bins that you can make from inexpensive products such as trash cans or wire mesh, visit www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/waste-management/forms-and-publications/DIYCompostBin.pdf



Scan Me

Food Scrap Recycling INFO

