

# FREE BACKYARD COMPOSTING KITS

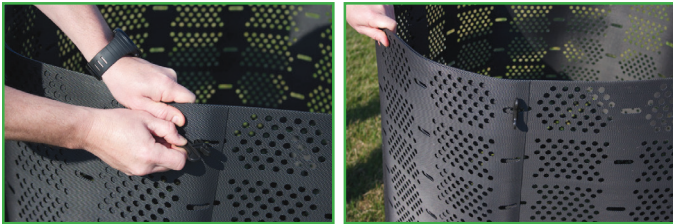
**FREE** backyard composting kits are available to residential curbside customers at our Central and Southern Recycling Centers and the Recycling and Waste Reduction Division office (Heritage Complex).

Please call the Recycling and Waste Reduction Division Office at 410-222-7951 to confirm inventory of backyard composting kits prior to visiting.

## Backyard Composting Kit 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!

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](http://www.RecycleMoreOften.com)



**DPW  
& YOU**

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

# Backyard Composting

The Eco-Friendly Solution for Yard Waste and Kitchen Scraps



**Recycle  
More Often.** [com](http://www.RecycleMoreOften.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

### 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](http://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** backyard composting kit. These plastic bins are available to County residential customers at the following locations:

#### Recycling and Waste Reduction Division Office

2662 Riva Road Annapolis, MD 21401, MON-FRI (8am – 4:30pm)



**Please call the Recycling and Waste Reduction Division Office at 410-222-7951 to confirm inventory of backyard composting kits prior to visiting.**

#### 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 <https://www.aacounty.org/public-works/waste-management/curbside-collection/yard-waste>

Food Scrap  
Recycling INFO

