



## What is composting?

Composting is the healthy decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms that transforms raw materials – such as food scraps, lawn waste, garden trimmings, and some paper products – into a valuable, nutrient-rich soil additive. Composting is an important step in the effort to divert waste from our landfills and reduce our greenhouse gas output.

### Compostable items include:

- Yard waste
- Food scraps
- Food-soiled paper products

### Unacceptable items include:

- Pet waste
- Sanitary products
- Diapers
- Dairy cartons
- Liquids
- Grease and oil

### Why should I compost?

When organics enter our landfills, they are compressed and denied exposure to oxygen. This causes rotting, which in turn generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By composting wasted food and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced. It's estimated that each household can decrease their landfill waste by at least 50% just by composting! And not only that, Northfield's compost program participants have priority access to free compost for their gardens twice a year.

## How does the program work?

Waste Management offers a voluntary subscription-based curbside composting program to all Northfield homes. Compost pickup runs every Monday during the yard waste season from the first week of April to the first week of December. Collected materials are

combined with yard waste and are taken to the same facility for disposal; however, unlike yard waste, compostable material must be put into a Waste Management cart due to Health Department regulations and animal concerns.

Composting Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participants will receive a 35 gallon Waste Management cart.</li><li>• Service is \$8.81 per month.</li></ul>
Composting AND Yard Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participants have the option of choosing a 35, 64, or 96 gallon Waste Management cart. You can continue using paper bags or other containers for your yard waste, or can comingle yard waste with your compost in a cart.</li><li>• You will continue to pay \$120.36 for a season of yard waste service, plus an additional \$2.25 per month to include composting for the season.</li></ul>

Compost program participants have priority access to free compost for their gardens twice a year. Carts will be delivered during the last week in March. If you would like to have the cart picked up by Waste Management at the end of the season, there will be a \$40 pickup fee, with an April redelivery fee of \$40 fee. If you would prefer to keep the cart during the off-season, you can do so without any service fees.

## How should I handle my food scraps?

Food scraps that are put loosely into your cart may attract unwanted pests. Food products may be put in paper bags or wrapped in newspaper

All clean paper products (cups, plates, napkins, etc.) should continue to be disposed of in your recycling cart. Paper products that have food remnants on them (pizza boxes, used paper towels, etc.) should not be recycled and should instead be composted.

## Where can I get more information?

To enroll in the program and request a cart, contact Waste Management at (800) 796-9696. For other questions, call Melissa Jewett at (847) 784-3554 or [mjewett@northfieldil.org](mailto:mjewett@northfieldil.org).

