

Food Scraps **PICKUP** Program[®]

Instruction Guide



A banana peel and a chicken bone are shown as examples of food scraps.

**Thank you for participating in the
Food Scraps Pickup Program!**

Over 20% of household trash is food scraps, like fruit peels, eggshells, coffee grounds and more. That's about eight pounds of food scraps per household per week. By separating this material, you can help turn it into soil instead of trash.

Spread the word! Involve all members of your household and encourage your neighbors, friends and community to participate, too! Together we can make a difference.



More information:
FoodScrapsPickup.com
651-661-9393
Scan this QR Code



Here's how to use the enclosed food scrap bags:

1



Collect your food scraps in the food scrap bags.

Only use the food scrap bags provided by Ramsey and Washington counties, which are designed specifically for this program. Other compostable bags and regular trash bags will not be separated for composting.

2



Once a week or when the food scrap bag is full, tie a knot at the top to close the bag.

Tie the top of the food scrap bag like you would tie a balloon. This type of knot is best for keeping the bag sealed.

3



Place the food scrap bag inside your trash cart or dumpster for collection.

Do not put the food scrap bag inside a regular trash bag. Place it directly inside your trash cart or dumpster. If you place the food scrap bag outside the cart or dumpster or in a different collection container (recycling or yard waste), it will not get to the correct facility to be separated for composting.

4



Done!

After collection, the food scrap bags are separated from the trash and brought to an industrial compost facility.



Collection Tips

There are many right ways to collect food scraps! Be creative with containers and choose a storage location that works best for you.

Container options include:

- Food scraps collection caddies
- Plastic buckets with lids
- Metal popcorn tins with lids
- Small, bathroom-size trash cans
- Five-gallon bucket with a lid
- Large, kitchen-size trash cans
- And more!

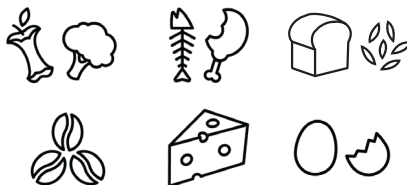
Storage location options include:

- On the countertop
- In the fridge or freezer
- Under the sink
- In the garage
- In the pantry
- And more!

To reduce odors, use a collection container with a vented lid or keep your collection container in the refrigerator or freezer. Change food scraps bags about once a week. Make sure to clean your container regularly.

To discourage fruit flies, keep your collection container in the refrigerator or freezer. Some people move their collection container to one of these spots in the summer, when fruit flies can be an issue.

Food Scraps **PICKUP** Program®



✓ Accepted Items:

All food waste (remove wrappers and stickers and empty food from containers)

- Beans and lentils
- Bread, tortillas, pasta, rice and cereals
- Coffee grounds and filters (no coffee pods)
- Corn cobs, corn husks and popcorn kernels
- Dairy products (including cheese and yogurt)
- Eggs and eggshells
- Fruits and vegetables (including peels, pits and rinds)
- Herbs and spices
- Houseplant trimmings
- Meat and seafood (including bones, scales and shells)
- Moldy or rotten food
- Nuts and nut shells (except black walnut shells)
- Paper egg cartons (remove any sticker labels)
- Paper towels
- Pastries, pies, dough and candy
- Pet food
- Seeds (including bird seeds)
- Small wooden items (like chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks)
- Tea leaves and paper tea bags
- Tissues and napkins free of inks, dyes and glitter and not used with cosmetics or chemicals



ONLY BPI certified compostable cups, plates, utensils, bags, parchment, wax paper etc. Check that the product or packaging has the “compostable” logo from the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) on it.

Not Accepted Items:



- Ashes
- Batteries or electronic waste
- Black walnut shells
- Butcher paper, wax paper, parchment paper or muffin cups without the BPI logo
- Cartons (including milk, wine, broth and ice cream cartons)
- Charcoal
- Chewing gum
- Cigarettes
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Dead animals, including waste from cleaning fish or butchering game
- Dental floss
- Diapers
- Dryer lint or dryer sheets
- Food packaging
- Frozen food boxes
- Gloves, balloons or similar products
- Grease or oil
- Hair and nail clippings
- Hazardous waste (including paint, cleaners and automotive fluids)
- Liquids
- Medications and vitamins
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Paper or plastic products (like plates, bowls, cups and to-go containers) without the BPI logo
- Pet waste, litter or bedding
- Personal hygiene products
- Pizza boxes
- Plastic bags
- Polystyrene (Styrofoam™)
- Produce stickers
- Recyclable items (boxes, cartons, glass, metal, paper and plastic)
- Rocks, soil or dirt
- Rubber or rubber bands
- Sharps (needles)
- Shredded paper
- Trash
- Vacuum cleaner bags and contents or floor sweepings
- Wax
- Wipes (all kinds)
- Wood or sawdust
- Wrappers or containers (including take-out food containers) without the BPI logo
- Wrapping paper, tissue paper, packing paper, tape or receipts
- Yard and garden waste (including grass, leaves and branches)



RAMSEY COUNTY

Washington
County

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