Food Scraps PICKUP Program®

Instruction Guide







RAMSEY COUNTY | Washington County | RAMSEY/WASHINGTON RECYCLING & ENERGY



Thank you for participating in the Food Scraps Pickup Program!

28% of household trash is food scraps, like fruit peels, eggshells, coffee grounds and more. That's about 14 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





ENGLISH

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



At least once a week, tie a knot at the top to close the food scrap bag.

One way to tie the food scrap bag is like you would tie a balloon. Another option is to tie the corners together. If you choose this way, be sure to double-knot it to make sure it stays 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!

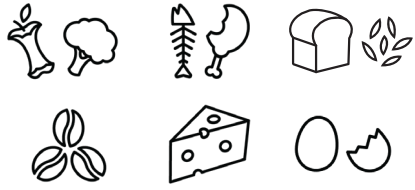
Storage location options include:

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

To reduce odors and discourage pests:

- Use a collection container with a vented lid.
- Keep your collection container in your refrigerator or freezer.
- Replace your food scrap bag at least once a week.
- Clean your collection container regularly.

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

BPI® COMPOSTABLE

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)



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