

## How does compost promote soil health?

When eating fruits, vegetables, and grains, we might think about the nutrients those foods give to our bodies. These nutrients were removed from the soil by the plants as they grew and were harvested.

Composting correctly allows us to return these nutrients to Marin's soils and improve soil health **without** the use of harsh chemical fertilizers.



Zero Waste Marin is the governmental Joint Powers Authority on waste reduction in Marin. To learn more, visit: [zerowastemarin.org](http://zerowastemarin.org)

## Why compost?

### Avoid Landfill Emissions

When food scraps and yard waste are buried in landfills, they create methane gas and contribute to climate change. Composting significantly reduces these emissions.

### Promote Soil Health

Composting our food scraps and yard waste allows nutrients to return to the soil without the use of chemicals.

### Prevent Unnecessary Waste

Food scraps, yard waste, and soiled paper take up space in our landfill unnecessarily. Food waste is the single largest category of waste we dispose of in the US, and it doesn't belong in the landfill.

### It's the Law

It is now required by CA State Law SB 1383 for all residents, businesses, and schools to keep organic material out of landfill by composting.



## BE A COMPOSTING ROCKSTAR.

Put food waste in the green bin.



[zerowastemarin.org](http://zerowastemarin.org)

## What belongs in compost?

### Food Scraps ✓

All food scraps can and should be placed in your curbside green bin, including egg shells and bones.



### Plants / Yard Waste ✓

Remove plants from pots and then put it in the green bin.



### Unlined, Soiled Paper ✓

Unlined paper that has gotten wet or dirty is not clean enough to be recycled, but will break down in the compost.



## What does NOT belong in compost?

### Lined Paper Products ✗

Many paper takeout products, including coffee cups, are lined with plastic to prevent leaks. This plastic lining means these items cannot be composted. Some things to look for to tell if a product is lined: it contains a liquid and does not leak, or contains food and does not show signs of grease staining the fiber.



### Bioplastics & "Compostable" Plastics ✗

Marin has a certified organic composter that produces high-quality compost and does not accept **any** "compostable" plastics. These products often do not break down successfully.



## How can I reduce the "ick" factor?

### Empty Frequently ✓

Emptying your compost pail into your curbside green bin frequently will help reduce odors. As a bonus, if you are keeping food scraps out of your trash bin, you will need to take that out less!



### Line with Paper ✓

Compostable plastic bags **cannot** be used in Marin because we have a certified organic composter. Instead, you can line your pail with a brown paper bag, paper towels, or other unlined paper.

### Make Room in the Freezer ✓

No space for a compost pail on the counter? Find a container that fits in your freezer to collect food scraps, and then empty directly into your curbside green cart.

### Rinse Regularly ✓

Regularly rinse out your kitchen compost pail to keep it clean.

