PREVENT GLASS FROM GETTING INTO YOUR COMPOST CART

A surprisingly high volume of glass was discovered in a recent audit of materials collected in the Denver Composts program. Even small amounts of glass are a serious contaminant in the composting process as glass granules are nearly impossible to remove. When notable amounts of contaminations makes it into green carts, it can result in entire loads getting rejected for composting.

The primary source for glass getting into the green compost carts appears not to be coming from compost participants, but instead from other nearby individuals that are dumping contaminants into the green carts. You can help prevent glass bottles and other contaminants from getting into your compost cart by remembering to return and store your cart on your property between collection days. Keeping carts out of the alley and off the streets will help to minimize the opportunities for others to place non-compostable materials into your green cart.

Even small amounts of glass are a serious contaminant in the composting process...

Questions or to Report Missed Collections:

Call 311 (720-913-1311) or email DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org
Para la información en Español llame al 311 (720-913-1311)
1. How can the Denver Composts program accept things like dairy, meat and bones?

Denver Composts materials are processed at a commercial composting site where the compost piles reach and maintain a temperature of at least 131°F for a minimum of 15 days. This process efficiently kills pathogens and breaks down meat, fish and dairy. Backyard compost piles are not able to achieve and maintain such high temperatures, and longer decomposition periods can generate smells and attract rodents or pests.

2. Can I put dryer lint and vacuum cleaner waste in my green cart?

**NO.** Lint collected from dryers or contents collected in vacuums often contain synthetic materials that will not decompose and thus are detrimental to the composting process.

3. Is hair compostable?

**YES.** Pet sheddings taken directly off your pet brush can go in your green cart. Human hair is also compostable. Hair is a rich source of nitrogen and can add structure and stability to the final compost material.

4. How can I keep my green cart smelling good and looking clean?

You can minimize smells in your green cart by:

- Ensuring you set your cart out every week for collection.
- Draining as much liquid as possible from organic material.
- Mixing your food waste between layers of yard debris.
- Wrapping food scraps with newspaper or placing scraps in a paper bag before putting them in your cart.
- Freezing leftover meat and fish scraps and then waiting to put them in your cart the night before your collection day.
- Occasionally rinsing out your cart.
- Using compostable bags to hold your food waste. Be sure to use certified compostable bags that carry the official BPI logo (Biodegradable Products Institute) and are made from plant-based materials.

**USING COMPOST**

Composting is nature’s way of recycling and returning valuable organic matter and nutrients to the soil to be used again. Incorporating compost into the soil can help to increase the soil’s ability to retain moisture and reduce the need for fertilizers, herbicide or fungicide on farms, gardens and landscaping. Compost increases infiltration and permeability of heavy soils, thus reducing erosion and runoff. Compost can retain 100% of its weight in water and is an important component of gardening in a drought.