

Why Recycle Food Scraps?

Food scraps are one of the largest components of trash sent to landfills and incinerators. However, food scraps are not trash; they are a resource that can be turned into useful compost.

Recycling food scraps into compost captures their nutrients and energy and returns them to the environment. When food scraps are sent to a landfill or incinerator, this resource is lost. In a landfill, food scraps create methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that traps CO2 and contributes to global warming. When sent to an incinerator, food scraps reduce the efficiency of the incinerator because they contain water and therefore don't burn well.

Composting food scraps turns that story around. Instead of wasting energy trying to burn food, or creating methane from landfilling it, composting food scraps produces a useful and valuable product that gives back to our nutrient life cycle resulting in cleaner soil, water and air.

What Is Compost?

Compost is a soil amendment which enriches our soil. When purchasing a bag of potting soil or observing your landscaper putting down "dirt" you are using compost.

Compost benefits our landscape by maximizing plant growth, preventing soil erosion and mitigating the frequency of water, fertilizer and pesticide use.

By recycling your food scraps, you are reducing waste and creating compost – a double win!

Villages of Pelham and Pelham Manor Food Scrap Recycling Guide



THANK YOU for your participation in Pelham's town-wide Food Scrap Recycling Program!



Food Scrap Recycling – It's Easy!

Here's How To Do It:

- 1. COLLECT** your food scraps in a countertop pail. Although not required, you may line your pail with a compostable bag-- ***please no plastic bags***. A roll of 25 compostable bags is provided with your starter kit. Starter kits can be purchased via Village of Pelham and Village of Pelham Manor.
- 2. TRANSFER** Most residents will fill the countertop pail with food scraps 3-4 times per week. Therefore, it is suggested that residents utilize the larger storage bin for weekly collection of food scraps. This larger bin can also be used for transportation of food scraps to the Drop-Off Site. Anything that holds around 5-6 gallons and has a lid will work. It is recommended that food storage bins be kept indoors--either in the house or in a garage.
- 3. BRING** your transportation bin and empty your compostable bags into the large green toters at the front of the Drop-Off Site. You may dispose of your food scraps as needed. There is no charge.

All material is collected by Westchester County and is brought to a commercial composting facility where it is turned into compost.

Drop-Off Location and Hours: *The Food Scrap Recycling Drop-Off Site is accessible 7 days a week in LOT 7 behind Village of Pelham Hall (195 Sparks Avenue) north of the DPW Yard. Enter on Sparks Avenue, then follow signs to the back northwest corner of the lot. Look for the Food Scrap Recycling sign and large green toters at the last two spaces.*



Accepted Items:

- ALL FOOD, including:
 - Fruits and Vegetables (remove stickers, bands, ties)
 - Meat and Poultry (bones ok)
 - Fish and Shellfish (shells ok)
 - Dairy Products
 - Bread and Pasta
 - Rice and Grains
 - Egg Shells
 - Chips and Snacks
 - Nuts and Seeds
 - Leftover, Spoiled and Expired Food (cooked)
 - Coffee Grounds (paper filters ok)
- Tea Bags (no staples)
- Paper Towels and Napkins
- Cut Flowers
- Compostable Bags (no plastic bags)

Items Not Accepted:

- *Plastic bags, plastic packaging and wrappers are never allowed in the bins. Plastic does not biodegrade and will therefore contaminate the compost. Use only compostable bags, paper bags or no bags at all.*
- *Baby/hand wipes are never allowed in the bins. They are synthetic, do not biodegrade and will contaminate the compost.*
- *Please no pet or human waste.*
- If you are unsure about an item, please email us before putting it in the bin. VoP residents, please email foodscraps@pelhamgov.com. VoPM residents, please email foodscraps@pelhammanor.org

Starter Kits: Starter kits can be purchased from the Village of Pelham and Village of Pelham Manor for \$21. **Payments accepted online or by check.** Kits include one 2-gallon countertop pail, one 6-gallon home storage/transport bin and one roll of 25 compostable bags for your pail. Contact us to coordinate the purchase and delivery of your kit. VoP email foodscraps@pelhamgov.com or go to pelhamgov.com. VoPM email foodscraps@pelhammanor.org or go to pelhammanor.org or call 914-738-8820.