

# Make Compost, Not Trash.

**Curbside Composting pre-service webinar**



**sanitation**

Jessica S. Tisch Commissioner

# Agenda

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- **Part 1: Service Overview**
- **Part 2: Composting Basics**
- **Part 3: Best Practices**
- **Part 4: Troubleshooting and Support**

# Part 1: Service Overview



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# Getting Service

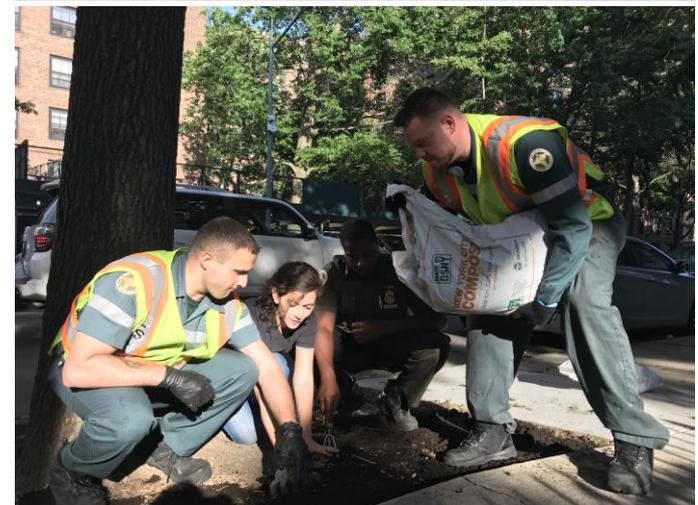
All buildings must sign up for Curbside Composting, even if they had it in the past.

- Buildings with 10+ units need building management to sign up.
- Residents can sign up to be a **Building Compost Volunteer**.
  - Go to [MakeCompost.nyc/bcv](https://MakeCompost.nyc/bcv) for details

Signing up allows us to:

- Understand who wants to participate and where
- Communicate service updates

Sign up at [nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting](https://nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting) or by calling 311.



# Neighborhoods With Service

- **Bronx Community Board 8**
  - Kingsbridge, Riverdale
- **Brooklyn Community Board 1**
  - Williamsburg, Greenpoint
- **Brooklyn Community Board 2**
  - DUMBO, Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Brooklyn Heights
- **Brooklyn Community Board 6**
  - Red Hook, Gowanus, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope
- **Brooklyn Community Board 7**
  - Sunset Park, Industry City, Windsor Terrace, South Slope
- **Manhattan Community Board 6**
  - Stuy Town & Peter Cooper Village, Midtown East, Murray Hill
- **Manhattan Community Board 7**
  - Manhattan Valley, Upper West Side, Lincoln Square



# When Will Service Start?

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Buildings are added for service on a **monthly basis**.

**We will notify you** if you have been placed on a collection route and when service will start.

If your building is missing information or building management approval, **you will be placed on a waitlist until we get the information or approval needed to proceed.**



# Service Details

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**We will notify you when service will begin in your building** and ensure you have everything you need when your service begins.

Just like with your trash and recycling, **DSNY will collect this material** on a set schedule each week.

Participants must use the **brown, rodent-proof bins with a latching lid** provided by DSNY. We will replace the bin if necessary.



# How can I compost before my building has service?

Until Curbside Composting begins in your building, we encourage residents to bring food scraps to a drop-off location, or compost at home.

To find a map of all Food Scrap Drop-off Sites, go to [nyc.gov/dropfoodscraps](https://nyc.gov/dropfoodscraps).

Before going to a site, check the map to:

- Confirm its hours of operation
- See what items are accepted there



# Part 2:

# Composting Basics



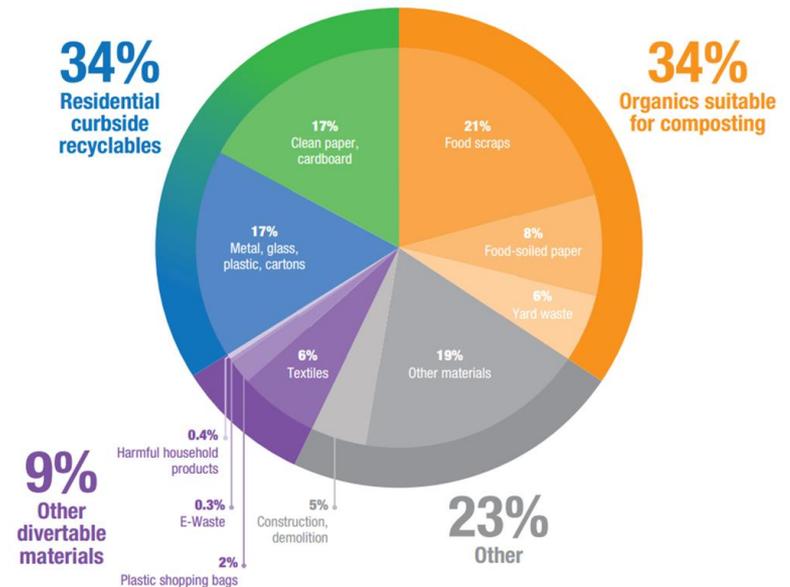
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# Why Compost?

Food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste comprise **one third** of all the trash New Yorkers throw away.

Food waste in black garbage bags is also **easily accessible** to rodents and other pests.

When food is discarded as trash, it is sent to landfills, where it produces **methane**, a harmful greenhouse gas.



# Why Compost?

Composting food scraps helps to:

- **Keep your neighborhood clean and healthy**
  - Reduce rodents and pests
  - Reduce street litter
- **Make NYC more self-sufficient and more resilient**
  - Reduce waste to landfills
  - Create compost
  - Create clean energy



# The Brown Bin

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Two sizes of bins:

- 13 gallon (17.7"x15.5"x26.9")
- 21 gallon (17.8"x22.0"x32.5")

Brown bin features:

- Tight-fitting lid and latch, to minimize odors between collections
- Thick, chew-resistant plastic, which helps to deter pests
- Odor-resistant plastic to avoid odor buildup over time
- Wheels for easy transport



# The Brown Bin

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If you still have your old bin – great!  
**We encourage you to use your original bin.**

You can receive up to 1 larger 21-gallon bin or 2 smaller 13-gallon bins per every 10 units. If you need more, **we will work with your building to find a solution.**

Delivery will occur in the **two-week period before your collection begins.**

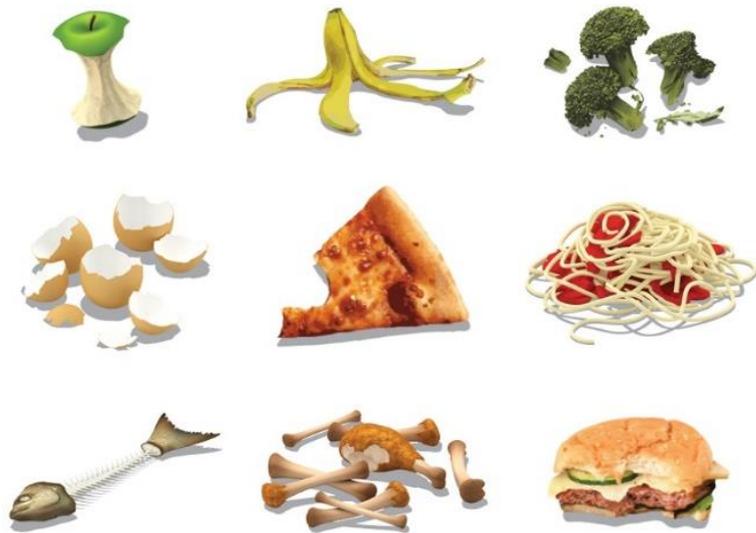
You can **request additional bins** if yours are lost, stolen, or you need more due to high participation.



# What Goes In the Brown Bin?

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## Food Scraps



## Food-soiled Paper



## Leaf + Yard Waste



# What Goes In the Brown Bin?

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- **Okay**

- Plastic bags
- BPI approved compostable items



- **Not okay**

- Diapers
- Hygienic products
- Animal waste
- Wrappers or packaging
- Foam
- Metal/glass/plastic recycling



# How to Participate



- 1** Separate out your food scraps and yard waste from your regular garbage.
- 2** Empty food scraps into your brown bin.
- 3** Set your brown bin out for collection the night before your collection day along with any leaf and yard waste.

# Part 3:

# Best Practices



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# Inform Residents

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All buildings will receive packets with information on how to participate.

These packets should be distributed to all building residents.

In addition, you should make sure residents are aware of:

- When collection starts
- What they can put in the brown bin
- How they can collect and store food waste before bringing to a bin
- Where the brown bins will be located



# Inform Residents

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## Additional ways to notify residents:

- Post signs in common spaces like elevators, mail areas, garbage collection areas, or bulletin boards
- Talk about composting at monthly board or other tenant meetings
- Include PDFs in emails, digital newsletters, or building's website

## DSNY can provide:

- Additional educational materials and signage
- In-person or virtual outreach to your building



# Set Up Your Brown Bin

- Pick an accessible, familiar space to set up your bins
- Common locations include:
  - Existing indoor or outdoor recycling areas
  - Inside trash room or next to trash chutes
  - Courtyard or other outdoor space
- Line bins with a clear plastic liner
- Post informational signage by bins
- Write the building address on bins so they are not mistakenly taken by a neighbor



# Set Out Your Brown Bin for Collection

Set your brown bin out at the curb the night before your collection day.

If you have extra food waste:

- Request an additional bin
- Save it for next week
- Bring it to a food scrap drop-off site

If you have extra leaf and yard waste:

- Set it out in a paper lawn and leaf bag or unlined bin
- Bundle small branches with twine



# Brown Bin Maintenance and Odor Reduction

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You can keep your bin cleaner and reduce odors by:

- Lining bins with plastic liners
- Closing and locking bins after each use
- Draining liquids before putting waste in bins
- Adding newspaper, baking soda, leaves, or wood chips to bins to help absorb odors
- Having residents freeze material before adding it to bins
- Rinsing bins frequently



# Helpful Tips

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- Train all staff who work with building waste on proper brown bin set up and maintenance
- Educate residents on how to participate to ensure bins are used correctly
- Reach out to DSNY Customer Service if you have any questions or issues



# Common Misconceptions

Misconception	Fact
Composting attracts rats and other pests.	It doesn't! The bin helps to reduce rodent activity when used properly.
Composting is complicated.	It isn't! "If it grows, it goes."
You can't compost meat, bones, or dairy products.	You can! Your material is sent to an industrial-scale composting facility that can process it.
You can't put plastic bags in your brown bin.	You can! Our facilities have machinery that separates food waste from bags.
Most compost just gets thrown out.	It doesn't! Our trucks all look the same, but they collect different kinds of material.

# Part 4:

# Troubleshooting and Support



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# Customer Service

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We have a dedicated Customer Service team who will support your building.

- Report a missed collection or service issue
- Request additional brown bins
- Request outreach support

To contact Customer Service

- Visit [on.nyc.gov/CurbsideCompostingFAQs](https://on.nyc.gov/CurbsideCompostingFAQs)
- Call 311
- Call 929-209-4200

# DSNY Outreach

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The Department of Sanitation can educate residents on composting and its benefits through events including:

- Presentations on the program
- Informational tabling events
- Kitchen Container distributions



# Kitchen Containers

- Small, **2-gallon containers that you can use to collect your food scraps** before bringing them to your brown bin
- **DSNY can distribute up to 100 kitchen containers** to large apartment buildings as part of an educational presentation to residents
- Go to [on.nyc.gov/eventrequest](https://on.nyc.gov/eventrequest) to **request an event for your building after you have been added to a route**



# Next Steps

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1. Wait for email notifying you of your start date
2. Get bins and other materials from DSNY
3. Request an event for your building
4. Start setting out your brown bin



# Thank you!

For more information visit [nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting](https://nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting)

For slides visit [makecompost.nyc/webinar](https://makecompost.nyc/webinar)



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