

Yard Debris Collection

**No Time To Compost?
Here's An Alternative.**

Southern Oregon Sanitation offers curbside yard debris collection for our customers benefit and to help the recycling process. This optional

We'll Collect and Compost For You!

service requires a one year commitment and the subscription costs will be added to your regular statement.

What Type of Organics Can I Put In The Cart?

Generally speaking: "If It Grows It Goes"



- Plant prunings
- Leaves
- Grass Clippings
- Weeds
- Brush & woody materials up to 2" diameter (be sure the lid lies flat)



Do NOT Put These Items In The Cart. "Items To Avoid"

- NO Bark, Dirt or Sod
- NO Rocks or Gravel
- NO Stumps or Logs
- NO Food Items
- NO Ashes
- NO Metals
- NO Rubber
- NO Plastic Pots
- NO Trash of ANY Kind
- NO Yard Debris in Plastic Bags

Just like your garbage cart, material inside the yard debris cart **CANNOT** stick out. The lid must be able to shut and lie flat.



Why Compost?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is a satisfying way to turn your fruit, vegetable and yard trimmings into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling soil conditioner.



Composting:

- **Helps garden & house plants** by improving the fertility and health of your soil
- **Saves water** by helping the soil hold moisture – reducing water runoff and reduces the need for pesticides and herbicides
- **Benefits the environment** by recovering valuable organic resources from landfills

Troubleshooting

Symptoms	Problems	Solutions
Pile not composting	Too dry	Add water until slightly damp & turn (mix)
	Too much brown matter	Add fresh green matter or organic nitrogen fertilizer & turn
Pile smells rotten and attracts flies	Too wet / too many food scraps or lawn clippings	Turn & add browns (dry, woody materials) or dry soil, papers or cardboard
	Food scraps exposed	Bury & mix food scraps into pile
	Non-compostables	Remove meat, dairy, grease, etc. & turn
Rodents in pile	Food scraps in open bin Holes larger than 1/4" Non-compostables	Use traps or baits, rodent-proof bin, remove meat, grease, etc. and turn

BASIC COMPOSTING



It's Easy. It's Smart.
It's Recycling.



Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.
www.sosanitation.com



Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.

Composting saves energy, decreases tons of organic materials from going into the landfills and, it's a great way to recover and reuse rich organic material in gardens and beddings. Below is a quick overview of various types of composting methods.

SYSTEMS FOR ONLY YARD TRIMMINGS

Open Piles & Simple Bins

- For yard trimmings ONLY
- Usually inexpensive or free
- Open piles and bins can be left for "natural" composting in areas with lots of space



SYSTEMS FOR FOOD & YARD TRIMMINGS

Rodent-Resistant Bins

- For food & yard trimmings (using "Mixed" compost recipe)
- For yard trimmings alone (using "No-Fuss" compost recipe)
- Bins require a lid, no holes bigger than 1/4 inch and hardware cloth or other "floor" materials to prevent pests



SYSTEMS FOR FOOD ONLY TRIMMINGS

Worm Bins

- Most fun! Takes some time & effort
- For indoors or outdoors
- Produces excellent fertilizer



Underground Composting

- Requires digging a hole each time you add new materials
- No harvesting necessary



REMEMBER...

Whenever you compost fruit & vegetable trimmings, we recommend a rodent-resistant system. Use a container with a lid, a floor, and no holes bigger than 1/4 inch, or bury food scraps at least one foot under the soil surface.

To test compost for the right amount of moisture, grab a handful and squeeze very tightly. A few drops of moisture should be visible. If water pours out too easily, the compost is too wet. If no drops are visible, compost is too dry.

Browns, Greens, Air and Water are the "Big Four" elements to keep your compost pile happy.

Follow The Basics

1. CHOP materials if you want them to break down more quickly.

2. MIX browns carbon material (*woody*) with green, nitrogen (*moist materials*).

3. MAINTAIN air & water balance by keeping compost slightly moist.

Do Compost:

Browns:

- Most sawdust
- Chopped, woody prunings
- Pine needles
- Fallen leaves
- Shredded paper
- Paper napkins/towels

Greens:

- Tea bags
- Liquids
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Lawn clippings & young weeds
- Fruit & vegetable trimmings
- Herbivore manures

Don't Compost:

You can compost just about anything, it depends how much you are willing to work at it.

"These items are difficult to compost"

- Meat, bones or fish
- Dairy products or grease
- Grains, beans or breads

"Can be hazardous in your compost"

- Dog, cat or bird feces
- Sawdust from plywood or treated wood

- Diseased plants (*in cold piles*)
- Fruit & vegetable trimmings (*in open piles/simple bins*)

HOT COMPOST HAPPENS

Heat accelerates composting and helps to kill weed seeds and plant diseases. Cold, slow piles are just as good. If your pile is large enough, moist, and well chopped, but not heating up, you can turn it and mix in some greens like grass clippings or an organic nitrogen fertilizer. For faster hot composting and better weed-seed kill, turn or mix your hot pile about once a week.



"NO-FUSS" COMPOST

For Yard Trimmings ONLY, requires a rodent resistant bin to prevent animal nesting.

Harvest: rich, brown, finished compost from the bottom and center of the pile after 12 to 18 months.



"MIXED" COMPOST

For Fruit, Vegetable and Yard Trimmings, requires a rodent resistant bin and active maintenance to prevent animal nesting.

Harvest: rich, brown, finished compost by sifting out course, unfinished materials after 3 to 8 months.



"ACTIVE" COMPOST

For Yard Trimmings ONLY, in open piles and simple bins, active maintenance prevents animal nesting.

Harvest: rich, brown, finished compost by sifting out course, unfinished materials after 3 to 8 months.