What's accepted

All food



- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells

NO: Gum

Food-soiled paper



- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons

NO: Frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, fast food wrappers, ice cream tubs, towels used with cleaning chemicals

Certified compostable products



- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

Look for the BPI logo on certified products.

BPI COMPOSTABLE

NO: Items only labeled as biodegradable, oxo-degradable, earth friendly, made from plants, green, etc.

Other compostable household items



- Coffee grounds and filters
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Wooden items such as chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks

NO: Yard waste, bandages, diapers or sanitary products, animal and pet waste, litter or bedding, cleaning or baby wipes, Styrofoam, dryer lint or dryer sheets, recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic)

For a detailed list of materials accepted and more information about organics recycling, visit **richfieldmn.gov/organics**

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PERMIT NO. 2256

City of Richfield
6700 Portland Avenue
Richfield, MN 55423



Give back to nature with organics recycling

Organics are a resource, not a waste! By participating in the organics recycling program, your food scraps and non-recyclable paper products are put to better use by being recycled into compost – a valuable resource used in landscaping, gardening, and road construction projects.

Para este folleto en español, por favor visita al **richfieldmn.gov/folleto**

How does organics recycling work?

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3



Sort it. Separate your food scraps, coffee grounds, paper towels, tissues and other organics into a certified compostable bag.

a. Start by collecting food, then add paper and other compostable items.



Drop it. Place your bagged organics in the green organics cart.

a. Larger items such as pizza boxes from delivery and paper egg cartons do not need to be bagged for collection.



Roll it. Place your organics cart out for weekly collection on the same day as your garbage day.

It's important to include the right things!



For an organics recycling program to be successful, it's important to keep the loads of material free of contaminants. When the facility receives a load that has a certain amount of contamination, it cannot be processed and instead has to be landfilled. Receiving organics with little to no contamination allows composters to produce clean, nutrient-rich compost that people can use in landscaping, gardens, and other projects.

Here are some common contaminants found in recent Richfield organics loads:

- **Non-compostable plastic lined-paper products:** to-go boxes, ice cream tubs, food wrappers
- **Recyclables:** cardboard, cartons, aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles
- **Non-compostable plastic bags**

If an item doesn't have the BPI logo and you're unsure whether or not it's compostable, it's best to put that item in the trash or contact city staff to determine if the item is safe to compost. This will help ensure the organics recycling is clean and free of contamination.

Compostable bags are available throughout the city

The City of Richfield is providing BPI certified compostable bags for residents! Each household signed up for the curbside organics collection program will be able to pick up a supply of free 3-gallon compostable bags, available to pick up once per year. Residents can pick up bags weekdays at the Public Works building (1901 E 66th St) from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and at the Community Center (7000 Nicollet Ave) from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Email **garbageandrecycling@richfieldmn.gov** or call 612-861-9188 with questions.

Please note that the Public Works main doors are currently locked. Please ring the doorbell to the left of the door for assistance.





If you are purchasing your own compostable plastic bags, remember that there are many different brands available. Compostable plastic bags are sold at most grocery, hardware and large retail stores. If you've used a bag that didn't work well for you, try another brand. Remember that the BPI logo must be on certified compostable plastic bags.

Save money by reducing your trash

By participating in organics recycling, you may be able to reduce your trash enough to switch to a small garbage cart or every other week garbage collection (only available with a small cart). This change will save you money on your garbage bill. Switch to a smaller cart by contacting your hauler or the City at **garbageandrecycling@richfieldmn.gov**.



Tips for collecting organics

Use a container with a vented lid



Vented containers allow moisture to evaporate, slowing down the decomposition process of the food in your organics recycling container. This will reduce odors and help your compostable plastic bags hold up longer. If you're purchasing a container, look for one with a vented lid. If you're making your own, simply poke holes in the lid.

Remove liquids



Liquids in your organics recycling container can speed up the decomposition of food and weaken compostable bags. To avoid this, be sure to drain excess liquids before placing food scraps in your collection container. You can also place paper towels or newspaper at the bottom of your collection container to absorb liquids.

Keep your container in the fridge or freezer



Keeping your collection container in the refrigerator or freezer slows down the decomposition process, reduces odors, and prevents pests such as fruit flies. It can also help your compostable bags last longer. Don't put warm items in your compost bag. Wait until they are cool or leave the lid to your container open.

Get labels for your home



Container labels help everyone in your household know which materials to put in the organics recycling, recycling and trash bins. Order the labels pictured at **environmentalresources.hennepin.us/items**