

Compost at Home

Composting is an easy way to reduce waste while improving your yard and garden soils. Yard trimmings and food scraps make up nearly 16% to 30% of waste produced by the average household. In Minnesota, 12% is food scraps and up to 18% is yard waste.

In 1989, the State of Minnesota passed a law making it illegal to throw away any yard waste with your household garbage. This includes grass, weeds, leaves, garden waste and sod strips.

Why throw this stuff away when it can be put to good use in your yard and garden? By composting leaves (browns) with kitchen scraps (greens), you create a dark, crumbly mixture that can be used to improve the soil and reduce your use of fertilizer and water.

Getting your own compost bin started can be boiled down to four simple steps: Make a compost bin or buy one, throw in yard waste and mix in kitchen scraps, add water as needed, and mix it up with a shovel or pitchfork once in a while.

What Shouldn't I Compost

While many materials can be composted, there are some items that you should keep out of your home compost pile to minimize odors and keep compost from attracting scavengers like dogs and raccoons. Since compost is generally used for a soil amendment, you want to keep it free of plant diseases and unhealthy bacteria. Don't add:

Food with meat, dairy or oils
Pet Feces
Diseased plants
Weeds gone to seed
Ash from charcoal or coal

Location and Other Considerations

Pick a spot in your yard that is: Convenient for you to add materials; accessible to water; has good drainage.

Red Wing City Code regulates the following:

- **Location** - Compost sites shall be located only in backyards, shall be a minimum of 4 feet from any lot line and shall be screened from view of the public right-of-way. Limited to 1 compost site per backyard.
- **Specifications** – shall be no greater than 10' in diameter and 5' in height. Compost sites shall be fenced or enclosed on at least 3 sides.
- **Operation** – shall be managed in a nuisance-free condition to prevent odor and the stockpiling of material that does not readily decompose within a calendar year. To prevent the attraction of rodents and other animals, no meat, bones, grease, whole eggs, or dairy products shall be added. The pile must be turned regularly and all inert materials must be removed from compost site at least once every 6 months.

Using your Compost

When using compost in a starter bed or potting soil mix, it is recommended that one part of compost be mixed with two parts soil. The pH of compost is slightly alkaline and will reduce liming requirements in acidic soils.

More Information

For more information on backyard composting, go to www.reduce.org, and click on Composting. Or, search Composting on the internet and visit any of the many other websites with Composting information.

2023 Compost & Brush Operation



Red Wing Solid Waste Campus
1873 Bench Street
Red Wing, MN 55066
651-385-3658



LOCATION:

Approximately 2 miles south of Highway #61 on Bench Street (Goodhue County Road #1)

Compostable Yard Waste

Red Wing Residents can deposit leaves, weeds, grass clippings and compostable yard waste **free of charge** at the Solid Waste Campus during regular hours of operations. When disposing of leaves and grass, they must be emptied out of any plastic bags or other containers they are hauled in. Biodegradable paper bags are acceptable. Everyone utilizing this site must check into the office prior to dumping.

Unscreened & Screened Compost

Compost can be used in clay soils to improve the moisture holding capacity and soil texture. Compost added to a soil with poor organic content will increase the utilization of plant nutrients. Compost can be substituted for peat moss when preparing a potting soil. Both Screened and Unscreened Compost are for sale at the Solid Waste Campus:

Unscreened Compost – Free to RW Residents
(limited to 1 yd per visit)

Unscreened Compost - \$5/yd for non- residents.

Screened Compost – 50¢/5 gal. pail (self loaded)

Screened Compost - \$10/skid steer bucket
(approx. ½ yd)

\$10 Loading fee if loaded by City Staff

Please note that if you require Solid Waste Staff to load the compost for you, you will need to visit us Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Did you know? By State Law, it is illegal to throw away any yard waste with your household garbage. This includes grass, weeds, leaves, garden waste, sod strips and prunings.

Brush & Branches

Residential Brush (shrubs, prunings, or anything with a wood stalk), wood chips, branches and trees under 9” diameter will be accepted during regular business hours for a charge **free of charge**. Cost for disposal of branches and trees greater than 9” diameter depends on the amount disposed.

Small Load/Minimum Charge - \$5
Medium Load (pickup/small trailer) - \$10
Large Load (large truck/large trailer) - \$15

Spring/Fall Cleanup

During the months of April/May and September/October, residents may opt to rent a roll-off container for their spring or fall yard waste at a reduced rate during these time periods. Roll-off containers rented at the reduced rate may only be used for brush, trees, flowers, grass, leaves and other compostable yard waste. Contact the Solid Waste Campus for availability. 651-385-3658.

Yard Waste Roll-off Fee - \$153.65



Wood Chips and Compost for Sale

Wood Chips for Sale

Brush and branches that you bring to the Solid Waste Campus are shredded and shipped to District Energy where it is part of the fuel load that is used to assist in meeting the electrical & heating needs of up to 20,000 residences and businesses.

Wood chips may also be available to Residents and Businesses as well as the City for use in parks. Chips are primarily used as mulch around shrubs and trees and in flower beds to control weeds and conserve moisture. Chips can also be used for pathways, and to stabilize soft soil.

Wood Chips are for sale at the Solid Waste Campus:

\$10 per skid steer bucket (approx. ½ yard)
\$10 Loading fee if loaded by City Staff

Please note that if you require Solid Waste Staff to load the chips for you, you will need to visit us Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Firewood Cutting Permits

The City of Red Wing allows Red Wing residents to cut firewood at the Solid Waste Campus during regular business hours.

If you are interested in a firewood cutting permit, you can get one at the Solid Waste Campus. There is no charge for a permit.

Real Christmas Trees

The City **DOES NOT** provide curbside collection of Christmas Trees. Real Christmas trees can be brought to the Solid Waste Campus and disposed of free of charge typically the first two weeks of January. Please contact the Solid Waste Campus for Dates. 651-385-3658.