

NOW YOU CAN RECYCLE MORE YARD WASTE!

What is compost? Through the natural process of decomposition, yard waste (leaves, grass and other clippings and organic materials - see complete list below) can be transformed into a soil-enriching substance called compost. In fact, compost is a type of soil – a soil rich with organic matter. Residents separate compostable materials as “yard waste” and set to the curb in cans or bags during April – December.

What can I place in my yard waste containers?

Yes 

Grass clippings and leaves
Garden waste; spent flowers; weeds
Tree and shrub trimmings; branches; vines
Pine cones, seed pods, tree litter; vines
Brush, roots, and small stumps
Fruit & vegetable peelings from kitchen*
Halloween pumpkins; straw bales
Clean fill dirt (no hazardous materials or construction debris)
Potting soil, garden soil, sand, fertilizer, sod
Wood chips, small twigs, chipped trees
Sawdust and wood shavings
Firewood and logs; wood ashes
Untreated, unpainted wood boards (2x4's or 4x4's)
(nails removed, please)

No 

Meat, fish, bones
Oils and fats
Dairy products
Pet manure; cat litter
Cooked food
Bread
Noxious weeds such as garlic mustard
Charcoal from barbeque
Coffee grounds
Newspaper; paper products
Plastics marked “biodegradable”
Plastic pots or flats
Egg shells

**PLEASE: No plastic bags of any kind
(from fertilizers, weed n' feed, mulch, topsoil, manure, stones, pesticides, etc**

* = apples, apple cores, bananas, banana peels, carrots, corn, corn on the cob, cornstalks, peppers, beans, kiwi, lemons, limes, lettuce, peas, oranges, orange peels, radishes, squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, pineapples, pineapple husks, melons, melon rinds, peanuts, peanut shells, mixed vegetables, potatoes, potato peelings, tomatoes, peaches, plums, pears, etc.--- from your garden, tree or kitchen



How do I place yard waste at the curb? Use yard waste containers that are acceptable to your municipality. Refuse cans with a “yard waste” decal or 30-gallon Kraft bags are acceptable for SOCRRA collection. Questions about stickers and containers? Check with your city's DPW. Remember too: *Containers with compostables cannot exceed 50 pounds in weight. Woody debris, such as stumps, branches and untreated lumber, must be small enough to fit into yard waste bags or cans (i.e., may not exceed four feet in length).*



What happens to my yard waste collected at the curb? Yard waste and other compostable products collected from 100,000+ homes, are transported to SOCRRA’s compost site in Rochester Hills. At the compost site, materials are mixed and processed with state-of-the-art equipment. Over 17,000 cubic yards of compost are produced each year.

<p><u>Where can I find SOCRRA compost?</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shovel Your Own</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREE to residents of SOCRRA Communities and Rochester Hills. • \$5 to residents of all other communities <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Loaded by SOCRRA bucket loader</i></p> <p>\$4 per cubic yard or a minimum charge of \$15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Northwest corner of Dequindre & School Road Rochester Hills-between Hamlin and Avon Road</p>
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How do I make compost at home? You can easily make your own compost by mixing shredded leaves with grass clippings, soil (or compost), fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, etc. For how-to-do it instructions, plus a 5-minute video, see: www.socwa.org. When you make your own compost, you have a supply of organic soil close at hand.....and have assurance that it is well-mixed without sticks or foreign debris.

Forests generate compost naturally when leaves fall to the ground and decay. Homeowners may also make their own compost by following easy steps (see www.compost.org for a how-to-do-it video). The nutrients and composition of SOCRRA compost is similar to home compost.

What’s so great about compost? Compost is “gardener’s gold”, ready to use in the home landscape. It improves soil structure, retains water, discourages rot growth, releases nutrients slowly, supports beneficial organisms and earthworms, and suppresses some soil-borne diseases. Compost helps protect water quality because it absorbs rainwater and filters out many pollutants. It’s useful as a soil amendment throughout the landscape – including lawns, trees, shrubs, vegetable gardens and flower beds.



For compost nutrient and compost quality data, contact mzczuprenski@socrra.org