

# Organic Composting

Compost is organic matter that has been decomposed and recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment. It is used in gardens, landscaping, horticulture and agriculture. Compost is beneficial for the land in many ways; however, since composting materials involves decomposition, worms and fungi, some regulations are in place to prevent a public nuisance.



## Compost Bins

Compostable materials must be placed within a compost bin constructed of durable material including, but not limited to, wire fencing, rot-resistant wood, brick or a commercially-manufactured bin designed for composting.

Individual compost bins cannot exceed 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet in area on property lots less than 9,000 square feet. Bins cannot exceed 5 feet by 5 feet by 5 feet in area on lots more than 9,000 square feet.

The height of the bin and the compostable material stored in the bin cannot exceed 5 feet.

Up to three compost bins are allowed for each 9,000 square feet, or portion thereof, of lot area.

Bins must be screened by an opaque fence or vegetative landscape screen so that they cannot be seen by neighboring properties or the street.

**Burnsville Property Maintenance**

[www.burnsville.org/property](http://www.burnsville.org/property)

952-895-4440



Bins must be maintained in good condition and capable of securing all compostable material.

## Bin Placement

Bins must be located entirely on the owner's property.

Compost bins must not be located

- In a front yard.
- Within 5 feet of a side or back yard.
- Within 5 feet of a drainage and utility easement.
- Within 20 feet of a ditch.
- In a required wetland buffer or setback.
- In a FEMA floodplain or shoreland impact zone.
- Closer than 25 feet to an adjacent residence.



## Health and Safety

Compost bins and compostable materials must be maintained to prevent odors, the presence of rodents and fire hazards.

Compost must be turned and mixed within the bins to keep the material aerated, minimize odor and promote effective decomposition.

## Compostable Materials

Permitted materials include kitchen waste and plants such as eggshells, coffee grounds, chopped vegetables and fruit, grass, leaves, weeds, twigs, evergreen cones and needles, and wood chips.

Commercial ingredients mixed into the composting material are permitted if specially designed to speed or enhance decomposition.

Certain materials are not allowed to be composted. This includes meat, bones, fat, oil, dairy, plastic, synthetic fibers, human or pet waste, diseased plants and plants treated with pesticides.