

Using compost is part of the food cycle!

The food cycle starts when you dispose of your food and yard waste in your yard waste cart. Next, materials breakdown in the composting process at a local facility. The resulting compost can be used in your home landscapes and on local farms to grow healthy food and lawns and reduce the need for chemicals. The cycle is complete when you return food leftovers, grass clippings, and leaves to your food and yard waste cart!

Local compost producers:

Bailey Compost*

360-568-8826

12711 Springhetti Rd. Snohomish, WA
www.baileycompost.com

Cedar Grove *

1-877-764-5748

3620 36th Place NE Everett, WA
www.cedar-grove.com

Lenz Enterprises *

360-629-2933

5210 State Route 532 Stanwood, WA
www.lenz-enterprises.com/residential

Pacific Topsoils *

425-337-2700, 1-800-884- 7645

www.pacifictopsoils.com

Riverside Topsoil *

425-379-9933

7404 Lowell-Snohomish River Rd. Snohomish, WA
www.riversidetopsoils.com

Topsoils Northwest

360-568-7645

9010 108th St SE, Snohomish, WA
www.topsoilsnw.com

* Has received the US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance (STA). For more information: <http://compostingcouncil.org/participants>

What goes in my food & yard waste cart?



Grass clippings, Leaves, Sticks & branches, All food scraps, Napkins & paper towels (with no chemicals or germs), Approved compostable packaging, Paper plates (with no plastic coating), Pizza boxes, Paper egg cartons, Coffee filters, Tea bags and more!

For more information contact your hauler or visit: snohomishcountywa.gov/482/Curbside-Collection

- Fruit stickers
- Plastic bags
- Milk and juice cartons
- Ice cream containers
- Plastic containers and straws
- Paper cups (unless compostable)
- Glass
- Candy and chips wrappers
- Lids
- Pet waste/ cat litter
- Diapers

Partly funded through the WA State Department of Ecology's Coordinated Prevention Grant Program
www.snohomish.wsu.edu/foodcycling

WSU Snohomish County Extension
600 128th Street SE, Everett, WA 98208
(425) 338-2400

For Food Cycle questions and information on how to compost at home please contact the WSU Snohomish County Master Gardeners.
Hotline: 425-357-6010
mg.help@wsu.edu

WSU Extension Programs are open to all without discrimination. Non-compliance can be reported to any Extension office.

Using Compost: It's so easy!



Using compost creates healthy landscapes for healthy families!

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXTENSION

 Snohomish County

What is compost?

Compost is the dark, earthy material produced by decomposing yard debris, animal waste, and food scraps. This dead organic matter supports an intricate web of life including bacteria, fungus, worms, and arthropods (bugs). These critters break down the material, creating a home-grown additive which keeps your soil loose, fertile and well drained, and holds moisture too!

In Snohomish County, curbside-collected food and yard waste is used to make local compost.



Why compost?

Compost does the following things:

- Keeps kids and pets safe when substituting compost for lawn and garden chemicals
- Helps soil absorb pollutants before they get into our streams, lakes and the Puget Sound
- Saves money by reducing summer water bills
- The compost process releases less greenhouse gases than the organic matter decaying in the landfill.

Using compost is easy!

Using compost on your lawn

Early fall and late spring are good times to apply compost on your lawn.

- **To seed a new lawn:** Add 1 to 2 inches of compost then dig or till it 6 inches into your soil.
- **For an existing lawn:** Apply compost over the top of your lawn and spread it with a rake for a 1/4 inch layer. If you already plan to aerate your lawn- aerate first, then apply the layer of compost.

No Compost



Look how compost can improve your lawn!

With Compost



Using compost in your flower beds

- **For a new landscape bed:** Mix in a layer of compost before planting trees and plants. Add about 2 inches of compost and till it 6 inches into the soil.
- **For existing landscaped areas:** Add 1 to 2 inches of compost around established plants. Top with 4 inches of coarse wood chips or mulch to help prevent weeds. Leave a 2 to 3 inch compost-free area around the base of plants and trees.



Using compost on your vegetable garden

- **For a new vegetable garden:** Add three inches of compost and mix it 6 to 8 inches into the soil.
- **For an existing vegetable garden:** Add about an inch of compost and work it 6 inches into the soil a few weeks before planting each year.

