

Curbside Yard and Food Waste Collection

Curbside food and yard waste pick up is available in all residential burn ban areas.

To see if you live within the burn ban area, visit www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/gis/maps/BurnBan/index.html. You get a 96-gallon cart for considerably less than the cost of a 32-gallon garbage can. The collected organic wastes go to local composting facilities (see below under drop off options). Each company sells a variety of compost and bark products. Buy local!

Don't Burn Brush, Branches or Garbage

Burning garbage is illegal and can result in a \$1,000 fine. Burning brush and branches is prohibited in all cities and urban growth areas in Kitsap County. Burning trash and vegetation produces smoke that can trigger an asthma attack, because it contains fine particles that can lodge in your lungs. It also contains chemicals that have long term health implications.

Don't Throw Yard Waste Into Ponds and Ditches

Yard waste thrown in stormwater ponds and ditches can cause blockages and make maintenance difficult. Residual fertilizers, pesticides, and excess nutrients can adversely affect water quality. Do your part to avoid flooding and pollution, and recycle or compost properly.

Put in Yard Waste Container

FOOD SCRAPS

- Meat, fish, or poultry
- Eggs & dairy products
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Breads, pasta, and grains
- Nutshells
- Coffee grounds/filters & tea bags
- Plate scrapings

PAPER

- Shredded paper
- Paper towels and napkins
- Egg cartons (non-styrofoam)
- Pizza boxes

PLANTS & WOOD

- Grass and leaves
- Weeds
- Prunings
- Branches (under 4' long, 4" diameter)
- Vegetable garden waste
- Houseplants



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Your Guide to Organics Management



Keep organics out of the trash! Recycle or compost them yourself and turn them into a rich soil amendment for your garden, yard, or flower bed.

Contact your hauler to set up curbside food and yard waste recycling:

Bainbridge Disposal: 206-842-4882

Waste Management: 800-592-9995

Drop off large loads of yard waste (no food):

Emu Composting Facility – 7890 Ecology Rd. NE, Kingston

360-638-0117 or www.emutopsoil.net

North Mason Fiber Company – 431 NE Log Yard Rd. (off Belfair Yard Rd.), Belfair

360-275-0228 or www.northmasonfiber.com



Kitsap 1 • 360-337-5777 or solidwaste@co.kitsap.wa.us



Home Composting

Composting at home is convenient and provides you with a free soil amendment. Composting takes on average about 2 or 3 months to produce finished compost.

What to compost:

Beneficial soil fungi and bacteria need both carbon and nitrogen to grow well. You can accomplish this by adding “browns and greens” to your pile or bin.

Greens (nitrogen sources):

fresh grass, garden clippings, vegetable scraps

Browns (carbon sources):

shredded white paper, newspaper, straw, dead leaves



Where to compost:

Locate your pile at least 2 feet from any structure or tree.

Set up a compost bin

An inexpensive compost bin can be made from 13' x 36" of 1/2" wire mesh formed into a cylinder as shown. Directions for other bins can be found at: www.kitsapgov.com/sw/compost.htm.

Build a pile

You will need at least a 3' x 3' x 3' pile to generate and retain heat. Follow these steps:

- Mix 3 parts greens with 1 part browns by volume
- Add water regularly. The pile should feel damp, like a wrung-out sponge
- Turn the pile frequently to add air



If you have mixed your browns and greens properly, the pile should heat up enough to kill most weed seeds. Do not add meat, fish, or dairy, since they can attract unwanted rodents and pests.

Using compost

Till in 1–3 inches of compost (up to 20–25% compost in your soil mix) when you're making new beds or planting lawns. Compost works on any soil. It helps sandy soils hold nutrients and water and loosens clay soils. Compost feeds beneficial soil organisms so they can feed and protect your plants.

Worm Bin Composting

Set Up a Worm Bin or Can

Worm Bin: The plastic container, 10 -16 inches deep, should have a snug-fitting lid. Drill half inch holes in the bottom for ventilation and drainage.



The rule of thumb for bin sizes is to have 2 square feet per person, so an average two-person home requires a 4 square foot bin.

Additional directions for worm bins can be found at www.kitsapgov.com/sw/compost.htm.

Worm Can: Buy a 20-gallon plastic trash can. Drill 1/8" holes in the sides every three inches. Bury it so only the lid shows. Two cans that are side by side work best. Keep out of the sun. Put in a shady spot protected from wind and extreme cold.

Fill Your Worm Bin or Can

Tear newspaper into 1-inch strips or use shredded paper. Fluff up and moisten the paper so it is as damp as a wrung-out sponge. Do not use glossy paper or magazines. Fill your worm container with about 10 inches of this bedding.



Add Worms

Use the right type of worms. Red worms, or “red wigglers”, thrive on food scraps. You'll need about a pound of worms, which can be purchased locally from:

- 3 in 1 Worm Ranch, 360-598-4242
- Kingston Worm Farm , 360-297-7280
- Kitsap E-Z Earth
360-779-WORM (9676)

What to compost



Do feed worms:

cut-up fruit and vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, eggshells, used paper towels, and soft, green plant



trimmings. You can add small quantities of grains, beans, and bread.

Do not feed worms:



citrus rinds; meat, bones, or fish; dairy products or grease; dog, cat, or bird feces; sawdust; or woody prunings.

Maintaining your worm bin

Place the bin in a shady spot, protected from winter winds or in a cool indoor area such as a garage. Feed your worms regularly. Keep a 4 - 6 inch layer of fresh bedding over the worms and food. Add fresh bedding as needed. Keep bedding moist like a wrung-out sponge. Do not stir or mix the bedding.

Harvesting worm compost

Worm Bin: Harvest worm compost at least once each year to keep your worms healthy. Move the contents of the bin to one side, place fresh bedding in the empty space, and bury food there for a month or two. Harvest the other side after the worms have migrated to the new food and bedding.



Worm Can: When the first can is full, move the top layer that is full of worms and uncomposted food to the second can. Continue feeding the worms in the second can, while you let the compost in the first can age. When the second can is full, dig the compost out of the first can and repeat the process.

Using worm compost

Worm compost will help your plants thrive by adding nutrients and humus to the soil. Sprinkle a 1- inch layer at the base of indoor plants, or blend no more than 20% worm compost into potting mix or garden soil or you might burn your plant. Worm compost is rich in soil bacteria, calcium, iron, magnesium, sulfur and 60 other trace minerals. The chemical ratio is 1-0.1-0.1 of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, respectively.



Organics Management

