



## How to Compost in the Village

### Seasonal Curbside Composting

Residents with yard waste carts can compost food scraps along with their regular yard waste. Compost and yard waste will be collected on the same day as your trash and recycling, starting the first full week in April through the last full week in November. There is no subscription needed, but you must have a yard waste cart to participate, as food scraps are not permitted in paper yard waste bags.

Yard waste sticker(s) must be affixed to the lid of your cart for each collection during April - November. The 96-gallon carts will require 3 stickers, and the 35-gallon carts will require 1 sticker per collection. Yard waste stickers (\$2.25 each) are available for purchase at Village Hall, Wilmette Jewel Food Stores, Chalet Nursery and Millen Hardware.

To request a yard waste cart, please contact Public Works at 847-853-7500 or [compost@wilmette.com](mailto:compost@wilmette.com) or call Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) at 844-633-3577 or visit the LRS Cart Portal at <https://www.lrsrecycles.com/wilmette-cart-enrollment-portal/> and one will be delivered to your home free of charge. Residents can opt in or out of this program at any time.

Residents will have a choice of a 96-gallon or 35-gallon cart. The 35-gallon cart is recommended for residents who will be composting primarily food scraps. The larger cart is recommended for residents who will also be composting yard waste such as grass clippings.

### Winter Gap Curbside Composting

In 2024, LRS is introducing “winter gap” food scrap composting collected every other week from December 1 – March 31. The fee is \$30 per month and residents can enroll by contacting LRS at 844-633-3577 or visiting the LRS Cart Portal at <https://www.lrsrecycles.com/wilmette-cart-enrollment-portal/>. Residents must have an organics cart to participate in this program. Wilmette yard waste stickers are not required from December 1 – March 31 for residents enrolled in this program

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**Acceptable food scraps include:** fruits, vegetables, meat and seafood (cooked and uncooked), bones, dairy, eggs and eggshells, bread, grains, cereal, pasta, teabags, meat, poultry, bones, seafood, shells, salad dressings/oil (unpackaged, no bulk oil) and coffee grounds and filters. Shredded paper, cardboard egg cartons, and soiled paper bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins and uncoated compostable take-out containers are also acceptable.

**UNacceptable food scraps include:** bathroom waste, pet waste and litter, metal/foil, glass, plastic bottles/cups, foam, latex and plastic gloves, rubber bands or wire, chip bags, food wrappers, condiment packages, tape, string, rope or twine. Plastic bags of any kind, even those marked as “compostable”, are not permitted in this program.

Questions? Please contact Public Works at [pubworks@wilmette.com](mailto:pubworks@wilmette.com) or 847.853.7500.



Concerned about animals? Your compost container is no more appealing to animals than your regular trash. For both trash and compost, a tight-fitting lid is the best animal deterrent. If your lid is broken, or if your container has a hole, please call LRS at 844-633-3577 to have it repaired or replaced free of charge.

### Why Should I Compost?

Composting is nature's way of recycling and is one of the most effective ways you can reduce the amount of waste you send to the landfill!

When food and other organic material end up in landfills, they emit methane as they decompose, a greenhouse gas 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. When given the chance to decompose properly, such as what happens with compost, these organic materials emit far less methane and are repurposed to create a nutrient-rich soil amendment that improves soil health and function! Composting also has the benefit of conserving water and improving soil health. Research indicates that soil rich in organic matter exhibits higher levels of water retention, productivity, and resilience.