

Food Scrap Drop-Off

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: November 1, 2024

How can I sign-up to use one of the drop-off sites?

The drop-off sites are for use by City of Columbus residents only. Residents can sign up to use a drop-off sites by completing the [online form at columbus.gov/foodwaste](https://columbus.gov/foodwaste).

Where are the drop-off locations?

Drop-off sites are open 24 hours a day and located at these Columbus Recreation and Parks locations:

- Bill McDonald Athletic Complex, 4990 Olentangy River Rd., 43214
- Dodge Park and Community Center, 667 Sullivant Ave., 43215
- Scioto Southland Park, 3901 Parsons Ave., 43207
- Beatty Park Community Recreation Center, 247 N. Ohio Ave., 43203
- Northeast Park and Howard Recreation Center, 2505 Cassady Ave., 43219
- Linden Park Community Center, 1350 Briarwood Ave., 43211
- Carriage Place Park Community Center, 4900 Sawmill Rd., 43235

Food scraps can also be dropped off at the **Waste and Reuse Convenience Centers** at 1550 Georgesville Rd., 43238 and 2100 Alum Creek Dr., 43207 Tuesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

What items are accepted at the drop-off locations?

The following items are accepted:

- Meat, fish and small bones
- Dairy products and eggs
- Fruits and vegetables
- Pasta, grains-and beans
- Baked goods and pastries
- Coffee grounds and paper coffee filters
- Paper towels and soiled napkins (exclude paper with coatings which could be plastic)
- BPI Certified Compostable Materials – MUST have the BPI Certification stamp (this includes compostable liners)
- Pizza boxes – tear into small pieces before composting (do not put full pizza boxes in the containers)



What items are NOT accepted at the drop-off locations?

The following items are not accepted:

- Plastic bags – BPI certified liners ONLY, no grocery bags, sandwich bags, trash bags, etc.
- Yard waste (the city provides biweekly curbside residential yard waste pickup on your collection day)
- Plastics (containers, coatings, films, etc.)
- Milk cartons and similar (they have a plastic lining)
- Aluminum foil
- Clothing and textiles (including face coverings)
- Electronics
- Glass and glass bottles

- Medicines and other healthcare products
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Rubber, plastic or nitrile gloves
- Stericycle items (e.g., potato chip bags)
- Stones and rocks
- Styrofoam of any kind

The containers should not be overfilled, and the lids must be closed. Unaccepted items render the contents of a container ineligible for composting. A rule of thumb is "When in doubt, leave it out." If you are not sure if an item is BPI-certified compostable, look for the BPI logo, check the [BPI website](#) or simply do not include it.

How do I get materials to the site?

Residents may use any closed container to bring their food scraps to a drop-off site. Food scraps must not be in a plastic or biodegradable bag; however, compostable bags are acceptable. Food scraps must be transferred to the drop-off site container and not left in any external container. Using a liner is a great way to keep your container clean; however, it is important to only use BPI-certified compostable liners. The use of plastic baggies, grocery bags or trash bags is strictly prohibited. Please look for the BPI certification stamp on the bag. Not sure? Check the [BPI website](#).

How much does it cost to use this service?

All City of Columbus residents may use these drop-off sites free of charge.

How often are the drop-off sites serviced?

Each site will be serviced once a week by a third-party vendor who will be responsible for collecting the food scraps, cleaning out the containers, placing a new, compostable liner, and ensuring they are in working condition to combat pest issues or odors.

Where does the collected material go?

The food scraps will be taken to a compost facility in London, Ohio.

Why is collecting food scraps important?

Diverting organic waste, specifically food waste, from entering the landfill is a major goal of the Columbus Climate Action Plan. The plan sets ambitious goals to achieve a 90% reduction of organic waste landfilled by 2050. The city continues to explore additional collection and composting options to assist residents in diverting food waste from the landfill.

Who do I contact if I see contamination at a site?

If you see litter, trash or other unacceptable items at a food waste drop-off site, please report it to the city's 311 Service Center online at 311.columbus.gov, by email at 311@columbus.gov or by phone at 614-645-3111.

Where can I find additional information about food waste reduction efforts?

More information about reducing food waste can be found at columbus.gov/foodwaste. You may also submit questions or comments to 311.