# What You Can and Can’t Compost in Your Backyard

## Can Be Composted
- Cardboard (uncoated, small pieces)
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Eggshells
- Fireplace ashes (from natural wood only)
- Fruits and vegetables
- Grass clippings
- Hair and fur
- Hay and straw
- Houseplants
- Leaves
- Newspaper (shredded)
- Nutshells
- Paper (uncoated, small pieces)
- Sawdust
- Tea bags
- Wood chips
- Yard trimmings

## Should Not Be Composted
- Black walnut tree leaves or twigs (release substances that might be harmful to plants)
- Coal or charcoal ash (might contain substances harmful to plants)
- Dairy products and eggs* (create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies)
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants (diseases or insects might survive and be transferred to other plants)
- Fats, grease, lard, oils* (create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies)
- Meat or fish bones and scraps* (create odor problems, attract pests such as rodents and flies, and might also carry pathogens)
- Pet feces or litter* (might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans)
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides (might kill beneficial composting organisms)

*These materials should not be composted at home but may be accepted by your community curbside or drop-off composting program. Check with your local composting or recycling coordinator.