

# 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.