

Town of Bethlehem



Food Scraps Drop Spots



What? Our Food Scraps Drop Spot program offers a third option for Town of Bethlehem residents who want to compost their food scraps for the health of the soil, plants and planet, but aren't interested in composting in their backyard, or can't afford the convenience of curbside service. However, if you can potentially afford [curbside service](#), we urge you to consider that option fully. It helps the hauler stay in business, so they can continue servicing drop spots, businesses, schools, etc.

Who? The program is open to Town of Bethlehem residents for residential food scraps only, and registration is required. Please email your full name, address & phone: drain@townofbethlehem.org.

Where? There are 3 drop spots, with more coming soon: 1) Town Compost Facility: [1244 Feura Bush Rd/Route 32 South](#). 2) St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Delmar. 3) Delmar Reformed Church. (NOTE: #2 spot is currently full, but we have openings in #3, and a waiting list as well).

When? Drop-off is accessible to participants 7 days/week (though we ask you to utilize the drop spots during daylight hours when at all possible, and to come back later in the event of storms).

How Much? Program costs currently range from free at the Compost Facility location to approximately \$8/month per household at the Delmar locations. This covers the weekly hauling, servicing, and supplies for the sheds. Limited scholarships exist for households that have financial hardship.

What Containers to Use?

- You may use any containers you choose*
- We offer an optional kit for purchase that includes a 2-gallon kitchen container and a 5.5 gallon transport container, and sells for \$30 total (while supplies last).

Contact Dan Lilkas-Rain to purchase a kit.
Email drain@townofbethlehem.org (preferred)
or call 518-439-4955 ext. 1510.



- **In either case please do NOT bring more than 5.5 gallons per household per week.*

Thank you for your help keeping this program running smoothly, and keeping our compost clean!

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What is Accepted?

- **Food scraps:** Fruits and vegetables, grains and even dairy, meat and bones*. Coffee grounds, paper coffee filters, and paper/non-synthetic tea bags. Pet food (NO pet waste). NO oyster, mussel, or clam shells. NO cooking oil/fryer grease in quantity (but oily food is okay).
- **Compostable paper and cardboard**, including food soiled paper napkins, food soiled cardboard egg cartons, pizza box bottoms that are too messy to recycle (rip into smaller pieces, and discard any wax paper and little plastic tables). Recycle clean paper and cardboard.
- **Wooden cutlery**, wooden toothpicks, wooden skewers, wooden popsicle sticks, wooden coffee stirrers are okay, but NO other cutlery types, and NO “compostable plastics” or other plastics, etc.



- **House plants and cut flowers** are accepted. Be careful to discard any pots, plastic, ties/bands, and tags.
- Yard waste should be set out for the Town’s curbside collection, or separately dropped off at the compost facility. **Please do NOT include yard waste with your food scraps** as it wastes valuable space.

*You may be aware that you should not compost meat, dairy and bones in your backyard. So how we accept them at our facility? Our large scale municipal composting process reaches temperatures of 131 – 170+ degrees F for long periods, and we use a minimum of 3:1 ratio of ground yard waste to food scraps in huge piles, so we can successfully and safely process those food wastes.

Keeping Your Containers and Kitchen Clean

- We recommend lining your kitchen collector and/or transport container with a couple layers of newspaper or a brown paper bag to help keep it clean. We will compost that paper along with your food scraps.
- You should wash your containers with soap and hot water/run through the dishwasher if possible, and sanitize as needed by soaking/cleaning with a bleach and water solution.
- Keeping your food scraps in the fridge or freezer is recommended, especially during hot weather or if you’re composting meat/animal products. We can compost frozen food scraps if needed, though thawed is best.
- We DO now accept individual compostable bag liners from program participants, especially helpful in the warmer months. But please ONLY use the approved “Bag to Nature” brand of BPI certified liners. These bag liners are easily available on-line, and some bags may be provided in the sheds during the summer months.

NOTES: Please remember that enrolled participants in this program agree to bring only residential food scraps and other acceptable materials from THEIR OWN HOUSEHOLD, as space is limited.

If you have any other questions about the program please email Dan Lilkas-Rain: drain@townofbethlehem.org (preferred) or call him: 518-439-4955 ext. 1510.



FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTING

FOR HEALTHY SOIL, PLANTS AND PLANET!

WHAT'S ACCEPTED

WHAT'S NOT ACCEPTAED

