

## Food Scrap FAQs

- Where do I get a counter-top pail and bin?

Starter kits can be purchased from the Villages of Pelham and Pelham Manor for \$21. Payments are accepted online or by check. Kits include one 2-gallon countertop pail, one 6-gallon home storage/transport bin and one roll of 25 compostable bags for your pail. For more information call Pelham Manor Village Hall at 914-738-8820 or email us at [foodscraps@pelhammanor.org](mailto:foodscraps@pelhammanor.org)

Village of Pelham residents can alternatively email [foodscraps@pelhamgov.com](mailto:foodscraps@pelhamgov.com) or go to [pelhamgov.com](http://pelhamgov.com) or call 914-738-2258

- Am I required to use the Starter Kit?

Residents may use any countertop bin they would like to collect food scraps. Any container with a snug fitting lid that will fit under your sink or on your kitchen counter will work. Suggested sizing for the countertop pail is from 1 to 2.5 gallons. Suggested sizing for the storage and transportation bin is 5 to 6 gallons.

- Where can I purchase additional compostable bags?

One roll of 25 3-gallon compostable liners is included in your Starter Kit. Replacement compostable bags/liners can be purchased at local shops including Fairway, DeCicco's, and Wise Hardware or online through major online retailers. NOTE: Bags MUST be BPI Certified Compostable. Look for this symbol:



- Can I use plastic bags labeled “biodegradable”?

NO. “Biodegradable” plastic bags are not accepted in the food scrap recycling bins. Compostable bags are made of plant-based materials that break down in the composting process. Plastic bags labeled “biodegradable” are made of plastic that breaks down into small pieces of plastic and will contaminate the compost.

- Am I required to use compostable bags?

Using a compostable bag is not required but strongly recommended. You can either use a compostable bag, a paper bag, or no bag.

- Can I put pet waste or baby or any wipes in the compost bin?

NO. Although you can put single waste napkins, coffee filters, and spoiled food into your town compost bin, you CANNOT put in pet waste, baby wipes, plastic OR biodegradable bags. These are NOT compostable.

- Can I put rotten food and dairy and meat products and bones in the Food Scrap Recycling bin?

YES. A commercial composting facility can accept ANY food. Meat, fish, dairy, bones, shells, pasta, bread, rice, fats and oils can all be composted at a commercial facility. In addition paper towels paper napkins plain brown paper bags can be included. . If you already have a backyard composter, it is suggested to keep composting fruits and vegetables in your backyard and use this service for those foods that can't go into a backyard composter.

- Will composting be messy or smelly?

Collecting food scraps should not be any more messy or smelly than putting food scraps in your trash. The same materials are being collected – just in a different container. Using compostable bags with your pail will also keep everything cleaner, so we strongly encourage using them.

- Where is Pelham's drop off site?

The Food Scrap Drop-Off Site is located in the lot behind 195 Sparks Avenue in VoP Parking Lot 7 (north of the DPW yard, behind Rockwell's) open daily.

- What happens to the food scraps after they leave the recycling facility?

All material collected by Westchester County and is brought to a commercial composting facility outside of Pelham with specialized processes to quickly break down the organic matter - even meat scraps, fish and bones. The compost is then sold to landscapers and garden centers.

- What is the difference between this program and backyard composting?

Food compost can be made in a backyard composter or in a commercial composting facility. The difference between the two is that a backyard composter is limited to certain foods (fruits, vegetable, coffee grounds, egg shells) while a commercial composting facility can accept any food. Meat, fish, dairy, bones, shells, pasta, bread, rice, fats and oils can all be composted at a commercial facility. If you already have a backyard composter, it is suggested to keep composting in your backyard and use this service for those foods that can't go into a backyard composter.

- Why should I compost?

Food makes up 30% of what people sends to landfills and incinerators, which then creates greenhouse gases and contributes to climate change. When composted, food scraps and organic waste can be turned into a soil amendment that helps grow more plants, fruits and vegetables!

- Who can I contact with additional questions?

Pease email [foodscraps@pelhammanor.org](mailto:foodscraps@pelhammanor.org) with any questions.