

## Residential Organics Acceptability List:

YES	NO
Baked goods	Ashes (fireplace, grill, portable fire pit, chiminea)
Bamboo foodservice items	Air filters (furnace, humidifier, etc.)
Berry cartons (paper only)	Animal waste, bedding, litter, or droppings
Bones	Aluminum foil
Candy (remove from wrapper)	Automobile and engine fluids (antifreeze, motor oil, etc.)
Cellulose sponges	Baby, personal and flushable moist wipes
Cereal	"Biodegradable" labeled items
Certified compostable bags (must be labeled BPI certified compostable)	Band-Aids™, bandages and first-aid items
Certified compostable food-service items (must be labeled certified compostable)	Batteries
Cheese and cheesecloth	Candles and candle wax
Chopsticks and coffee stir-sticks (wood only)	Candy and chip wrappers
Coffee cups (must be labeled certified compostable)	Cartons (soup, broth, milk, juice, or wine)
Coffee grounds and paper filters (K-cups or other coffee pods are garbage.)	Cat litter of any kind
Condiment packets (paper only including: salt, pepper, sugar, sugar substitute, etc.)	Ceramics (mugs, plates, bowls, vases, etc.)
Cork (natural only, plastic corks are garbage)	Charcoal (Charcoal that contains chemicals for quick or easy lighting is garbage. If you're unsure throw it away.)
Corn cobs, husks and shuckings	Cigarettes, cigars and butts
Cotton balls (without chemicals on them)	Cleaning products including towels, rags, sponges, etc. soaked with chemical cleaning products
100% cotton or wool clothing that cannot be repaired or donated (cut into 4" x 4" pieces)	Condiment packets (plastic and foil including: ketchup, relish, red pepper, parmesan, taco sauce, etc.)
Dough	Condoms and related products
Dust bunnies	Construction materials (concrete, sheetrock, etc.)
Egg cartons (paper only)	Cosmetics and perfumes
Egg shells	Crayons and chalk
Facial tissue	Dead animals
Fish and fish parts	Dental floss (contains plastic)
Food - ALL spoiled, moldy, frozen food, dairy, frozen dairy, all fruits and vegetables including peelings and pits, baked goods, sauces, herbs and spices, nuts, seafood and fish including shells and parts, meat including fat and bones, etc.	Detergents (liquid, powder, sheets, and tablets)
Flour and sugar paper bags (not plastic lined)	Diapers (baby, overnight, training, swim, and covers)
Flower bouquets (remove ribbon, plastic and metal)	Dirt or soil
Frozen foods	Dryer lint and dryer sheets (contains synthetic fibers)
Fruit, fruit peels, fruit seeds, and pits	Dusting wipes (contains synthetic fibers)
Fur - from pet grooming (not fur clothing)	Fast food wraps and boxes (lining is not compostable)
Grains	Feces (human and pet)
Gravy and sauces	Feminine hygiene products (tampons, pads, liners, applicators - paper or plastic)
Grease (only small amounts wiped in paper towels)	Fertilizers (solid and liquid)
	Frozen or refrigerated food boxes
	Gauze and bandages
	Glass
	Grease (small amounts wiped in paper towel is OK)
	Gum (contains plastic)



**Questions?** Call Solid Waste & Recycling at 218-281-6445

or email us at [environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us](mailto:environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us)



Updated 1.26.17

## Residential Organics Acceptability List (continued):

YES	NO
Hair - human and pet	Ice cream tubs (paper or plastic)
Herbs and spices	Incontinence products
Indoor plants and trimmings (no dirt or outdoor plants)	Laminated paper
Jam and jelly	Latex (balloons and gloves)
Masking tape - paper type, small amounts with no paint (not plastic type)	Liquids (pour non-hazardous liquids down the drain)
Meat and meat products (including fat and bones)	Litter and street sweepings
Melon, pumpkin and gourds	Markers and pens
Nail clippings (no polish)	Metal
Newspaper that is wet with food or dirt	Microwaveable popcorn bags (plastic lined with BPA)
Nuts and nut shells	Packing peanuts (foam or "degradable" [unless certified compostable])
Oatmeal	Paper than can be recycled
Oysters, mussels, clams (shells and all)	Parchment and wax paper (unless certified compostable)
Paper bags (flour, sugar, cornmeal, etc. that are not plastic lined)	Personal hygiene products (toothpaste, soap, etc.)
Paper take-out containers and fast food packaging (not plastic lined or if lined they must be labeled certified compostable) (Chinese food containers are garbage.)	Pesticides (solid and liquids)
Paper plates and cups (unlined are ok - if lined they must be labeled certified compostable)	Pet food bags (plastic or foil lined)
Paper towels and napkins	Photos and slides
Pastries and pies	Plastic (all non-certified compostable, including bags and wrap)
Pencils and pencil shavings (no metal, foil or erasers)	Plastic lined paper (ex: Chinese food containers, ice cream tubs, coffee cups - unless certified compostable)
Pet Food (dry or wet removed from bag or can)	Products labeled as "biodegradable", earth friendly, etc.
Pizza boxes	Q-tips™ with plastic middle
PLA plastic (only if labeled certified compostable)	Remodeling debris
Popcorn kernels	Rocks and gravel
Popsicle sticks and toothpicks (wood only)	Rubber and rubber bands
Q-tips™ with paper stems only (no plastic)	Snack and sandwich bags (unless certified compostable)
Sawdust (untreated wood only) (double bag)	Soap (liquid, bar, shampoo, dish, dishwasher, laundry)
Spices (fresh or dried)	Soil and dirt
Soup (strain liquids down drain first)	Star Tribune "oxo-degradable" bags
Tea bags (not nylon) (tea bag packaging must be paper only, no plastic or foil lining) (remove staples)	Styrofoam™ (egg cartons, packaging, and peanuts)
Tissues and tissue paper (no glitter or foil)	Synthetic clothing
<p><b>How to tell if an item is certified compostable:</b>                      One of these logos will be on the product if it is certified compostable.                      You can also check online at <a href="http://www.BPIworld.org">www.BPIworld.org</a></p>	Tape (transparent, Scotch™, electrical, duct, packing, etc.)
	Toys
	Treated wood (lumber and sawdust)
	Vacuum cleaner bags
	Wax (wax paper [unless certified compostable], candle wax, car wax, etc.)
	Wicker (furniture or wicker scraps)
	Wood scraps
Wrapping Paper (recycle paper without glitter or foil)	
Yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, tree and garden trimmings)	



**Questions?** Call Solid Waste & Recycling at 218-281-6445  
 or email us at [environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us](mailto:environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us)



Updated 1.26.17