



Composting in Haverford Township

NEW Township Curbside Service will collect your food waste and brush for composting!

How do I participate?

Starting on July 13, 2026, place accepted items in a bucket at your curb every Monday alongside scheduled brush collection.

This Option:

- 1) Is free and available to all residents who receive Township trash removal services
- 2) Uses any 5-gallon bucket(s) with a tight-fitting lid
- 3) Requires no sign up or registration
- 4) Is a great composting option if you aren't able to compost in your own backyard



Why compost?



Composting is nature's way of recycling.



It is one of the most powerful actions we can take to reduce our trash and build healthy soil.



It transforms our waste into a beneficial, value-added soil supplement that can fertilize plants and lawns and improve water retention.



The township saves money by composting food waste and brush rather sending it to the incinerator.

Look at the next page for more details on how to receive a FREE Curbside Composting kit!

Curbside Composting Program Details

Haverford Township is thrilled to announce its first-ever curbside composting program, starting on July 13, 2026! If you are interested in taking advantage of this service and helping the Township save money, check out details below:

- Free and available to all residents who receive Township trash removal services
- To start, place accepted items (next page) in a 5-gallon bucket curbside by 6 AM on Mondays with scheduled brush collections. Brush and food waste will be emptied into the same truck and taken to a commercial composting facility.
- You may use your own 5-gallon buckets, tight-fitting lids, and paper bag liners; they do not need to be Township-provided. Paper bag liners are optional, but encouraged to help keep buckets clean.

Curbside Composting Kit Giveaway June 14th

Time: 9 AM to 1 PM

Location: Twp. Building (1014 Darby Rd, Havertown)

- The first 900 households will receive one indoor countertop compost collector.
- The first 2,500 households will receive a 5-gallon bucket and lid, bucket decals, and a pack of paper bags (one kit per household).
- Can't make it? See page 4 for more distribution info!



Scan the QR code to sign up for the Township's Email List and receive program updates and information

Expanded Brush Guidelines!

Starting July 13th, paper bags, weeds, and yard waste will be accepted!

- 1) must be untreated products such as sticks, branches, brush, woodchips, grass clippings, weeds, and garden trimmings
- 2) branches must not be more than one-and-a-half inches in diameter or three feet in length
- 3) must be placed in an unlined trash can or brown paper bag that can be easily lifted and weighs less than 40 pounds
- 4) must not be in a plastic bag or tied with twine



Haverford Township

Questions? Email mbadman@havtwp.com

What goes in the bucket?



Fruits & vegetables
(inc. peels, pits, & seeds)



Grains & baked goods



Coffee grounds, filters, & tea



Paper plates, cups, napkins, paper towels, & wooden/bamboo cutlery



Dairy, nuts, & eggshells



Cooked or processed foods, fried foods, & table scraps



Flowers & houseplant trimmings



Hair & fur



Cold fireplace ash & sawdust (no charcoal or treated wood)

Prohibited Items



Plastic, even compostable plastic



Meat, bones, or seafood



Stickers, twist ties, or rubber bands



Gum or cigarettes



Used tissues, diapers, wipes, or items containing bodily fluids



Pet waste, kitty litter, or chicken bedding



Medicine, medical waste, chemicals, herbicides, pesticides, or treated wood

Helpful Tips:

- 1) Line your compost bucket with a paper bag to aid in cleanliness.
- 2) Rinse your bucket after each collection.
- 3) Don't add liquids for collection.



Place pizza boxes under the bucket.

Remove wax paper and plastic.



Frequently Asked Questions

? Will it smell?

A well-sealed collection bucket should successfully contain odors when the lid is closed. Countertop collection bins can be emptied into the collection bucket if an odor escapes. A properly managed backyard bin should NOT smell. Tip: Store the curbside collection bucket away from direct sunlight.



Curbside
Composting

? Will it attract animals or bugs?

Animals/bugs are attracted to food, but a well-sealed collection bucket or a secure compost bin will deter pests, similar to a trash can with a lid. For backyard composters, to avoid unwanted flies, cover any food with a layer of leaves and ensure it is damp but not soggy.

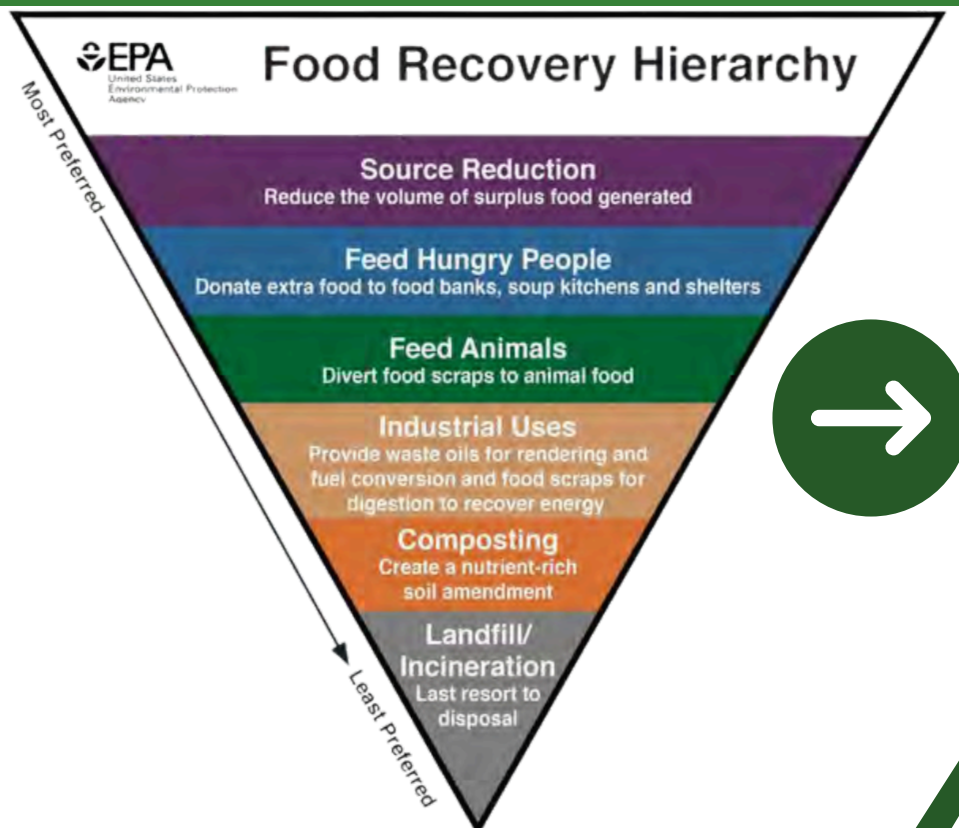


Backyard Composting

? I can't make it to the giveaway event on June 14. Can I still get a composting starter kit?

Yes! After the giveaway event on June 14, composting kits will be available while supplies last at the Township Building during summer business hours (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday and, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM on Fridays). You can also purchase a 5-gallon bucket and lid at most home improvement retailers.

EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy



The Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes actions you can take to prevent and divert wasted food.

The higher levels create the most benefits for the environment, society, and the economy. In other words, actions like meal planning, buying or growing only what you need, and donating excess food make a huge difference. This hierarchy can be a helpful guide and emphasizes that throwing food away should be a last resort.



What do your Commissioners have to say?

Check out these local success stories happening right here in Haverford.

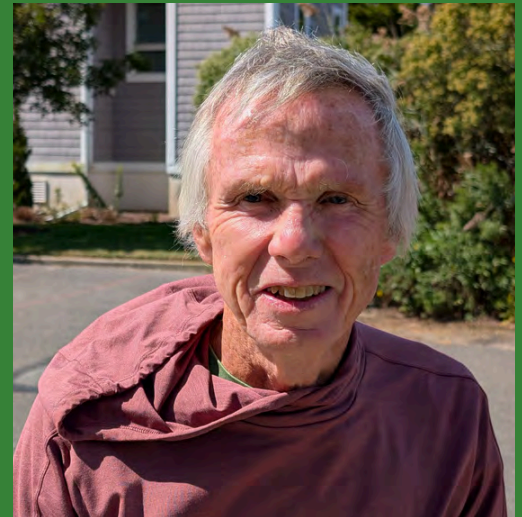
Larry Holmes, 6th Ward Commissioner



“For several years, my family has used a commercial composting service for disposing of all of our compostable refuse. It has been very easy to do, and with that and recycling, we have reduced our regular trash pickup to one can per week. It helps keep animals out of our trash, the 5-gallon can we store it in until replacement/ replenishment lasts several weeks. Our composting container sits right next to the sink and is a simple part of our daily routine. Coffee grounds, pineapple cores, orange, lemon and lime rinds, egg shells, cut flowers, and cut vegetables go in the composting container. The only thing we don't compost are food products with meat or animal fat. We feel good about doing it as well because we know we are removing things from the trash stream that end up coming back into our community's flower beds and vegetable gardens.”

Dr. Gerry Hart, 8th Ward Commissioner

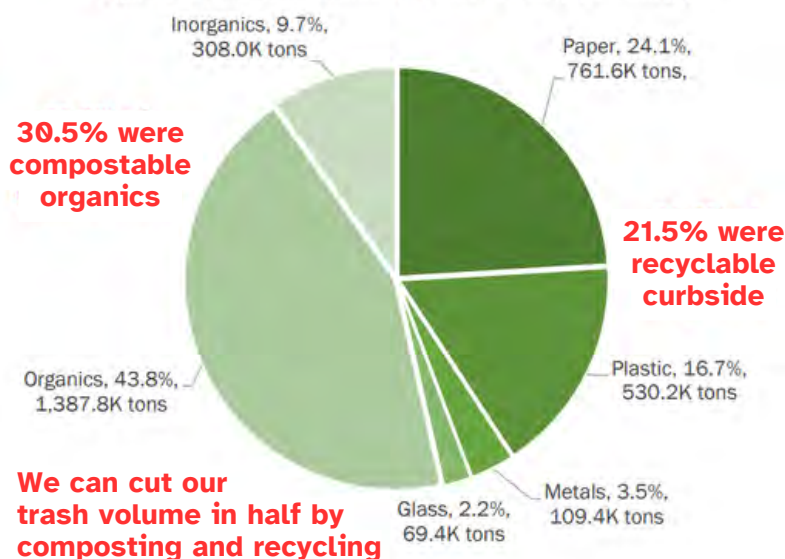
“My thirty years of [backyard] composting have taught me the immense value of turning waste into a resource. For the last decade, I've used a tumbler-style composter, which has made the process incredibly efficient. I regularly add vegetable scraps from my kitchen and green waste from the garden, creating a rich mix of nitrogen. I balance this with carbon by adding leaves collected in the fall. This simple practice significantly reduces my household garbage and, in return, produces excellent, nutrient-dense compost for my garden. The tumbler is remarkably easy to use; a quick turn of the hand crank every few weeks is all it takes to aerate the pile and encourage decomposition, transforming scraps into black gold.”



*Haverford
Township*

What is in our trash?

Figure E-4 Composition Summary by Material Group (Percentage)



Source: PA DEP Waste Characterization Study, Sept. 2022 Southeast Region Results

Additional Composting Opportunities

Private composting services, compost bin swaps, and compost drop-offs

Backyard Composting

You can obtain a \$30 subsidized backyard composting bin after a training. If you are interested, reach out to mbadman@havtwp.com.

Bokashi Method or Vermicomposting

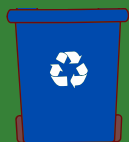
Two processes that either ferment food waste in an indoor composter (Bokashi) or uses microbes and worms to decompose organic matter (Vermicomposting) to create a rich soil addition.

Where does our waste go?



Brush & Food Waste

Beginning on July 13, 2026, brush and food waste will be collected in the same truck on Mondays and sent to Kitchen Harvest at Linvilla Orchards to be composted.



Recycling

Recycling is collected once a week and sent to Republic Services in King of Prussia, PA. There, collected materials are sorted and 90% is sold for either recycling or repurposing.



Leaves

In the fall, leaves are collected throughout the Township, taken to the Public Works Yard and hauled to American Bio soils in Douglassville, PA where they are turned into compost or mulch.



Trash

Trash is collected twice a week and, like all of Delaware County, sent to and burned at Reworld waste-to-energy facility in Chester, PA. A portion of the trash and all ash after incineration is sent to Rolling Hills Landfill in Earls Township, Boyertown, PA.



2025 Trash Fee Comparison



Haverford Township

Questions? Email mbadman@havtwp.com

Recycling Update

These are the most up-to-date guidelines for Haverford Township's recycling programs for 2026.

Important Recycling Information – Please Read!

DO RECYCLE

GLASS • empty, clean & dry •

- Glass food and beverage bottles and jars (clear, brown, & green) (*remove caps/lids*)

METAL (Aluminum & Steel)

- Aluminum and steel food and beverage cans (*remove caps/lids; empty, clean, and dry*)

PLASTICS • empty, clean & dry •

- Plastic bottles and containers labeled #1-#7 (*no loose caps/lids; remove spray tops*)

CARDBOARD, PAPER & PAPERBOARD

• dry •

- Aseptic cartons (e.g., juice, broth, liquid egg cartons)
- All sizes of cardboard boxes (*flatten; if outside bin, flatten and tie smaller than 3 ft.*)
- Empty paper towel & toilet paper rolls
- Food boxes (e.g., crackers, cereal, cake boxes)
- Magazines, catalogs, envelopes
- Newspapers, inserts, and junk mail
- Office and school paper / copy paper (*any color*)
- Paper bags (*grocery type*)
- Paperboard packaging (e.g., tissue boxes)
- Phone books & other soft cover books

DO NOT RECYCLE

GLASS

- Broken glass
- Drinking glasses
- Light bulbs
- Window panes

METAL

- Aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil
- Electronics
- Batteries
- Mirrors
- Scrap metal
- Ceramics
- Needles
- Car parts

PAPER

- Greasy pizza boxes
- Wet cardboard, paper, and paperboard
- Paper towels
- Tissue paper
- Shredded paper

PLASTICS

- Plastic bags
- Plastic grocery bags
- Food-soiled materials
- Polystyrene foam (e.g., Styrofoam) containers, cups, plates, etc.
- Tableware (e.g., knives & forks)
- Toys
- Sporting goods
- Solvents, oil, and other chemical containers
- Swimming pools
- Trash cans
- Hoses
- Laundry baskets

PACKAGING

MATERIALS

- Styrofoam
- Bubble wrap
- Packing peanuts/pillows
- Plastic bags

****WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT! DO NOT RECYCLE!****

Do NOT put the following with trash OR recycling:

- Refrigerant-containing items (bring window ACs, dehumidifiers to large e-waste events. Sorry, no refrigerators).
- Electronics (anything with a plug or battery - donate or recycle in small e-waste bins or during large e-waste events).
- Chemicals, fluorescent tubes, fire extinguishers, etc. (dispose of at Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste events).
- Latex paint (use the Citizen Reporter or call 610-446-1000 x2263 or x2264 for pickup).

PRC Glass Bin



Small E-Waste Bins



Any questions? Please visit the recycling page on the Township website (scan the QR code on the left). There, you will find more information about our accepted and unaccepted items as well as other optional recycling programs such as the small e-waste bins (Township Building and CREC), PRC glass bin at Haverford Reserve, LED lightbulb recycling, etc.



Haverford Township



1014 Darby Road, Havertown, PA 19083

Phone Number: (610) 446-1000

Email: info@havtwp.com

Website: www.havtwp.org

NOTE: THIS FLYER AND THE COMPOSTING PROGRAMS
OUTLINED WITHIN ARE FUNDED EITHER FULLY OR IN PART BY
A USDA COMPOST AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANT.



NEW CURBSIDE COMPOSTING SERVICE FROM HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP

