

## How it Works

- 1 Use an official **VH Compost Pail** or other container with a well-fitted lid. **Collect food scraps** at home and at work.
- 2 **Dump food scraps** into the collection bin at the Transfer Station.
- 3 The compost team **mixes all the food scraps into an active manure pile**.
- 4 The pile cures until it becomes **nutrient-rich compost**.
- 5 Our community uses the compost to **enrich garden soils**.



## Tips & Tricks

### How to keep your compost pail mess-less and odor-free:

- 1 Use an official **VH Compost Pail** or other container with a **well-fitted lid**.
- 2 Before filling your pail, **line the bottom with a paper towel**, coffee filter, or other non-inked paper to make emptying easier and cleaner. The paper can go into the collection bin at the Transfer Station.
- 3 **“Cap” food scraps as you go** with used, paper towels, used coffee filters and grounds, etc.
- 4 **Keep potentially smelly food items** in a sealed container or plastic bag **in your fridge or freezer** until you are ready to drop them off.
- 5 **Wash out your container** after dumping and start the cycle all over again!

## Why Compost?

### Composting Makes Sense!

**Composting saves money!** Our community throws away over 630 tons of household trash annually at a cost of \$120/ton. On average, 25% of trash is food scraps. If every household and business composted their food scraps, we could potentially lower annual disposal costs by approximately \$19,000.

**Less stink!** If you separate food scraps into your compost pail, your trash won't be as smelly, and you'll need to make fewer trips to the Transfer Station.

**Composting keeps resources from being wasted.** Why pay to ship something off island when it can be turned into a valuable commodity? Mixed with manure and other organic matter, food scraps become compost, and compost is “gold” for your garden! Throwing food scraps into the trash is like throwing away gold!

**It's good for Vinalhaven!** When we make compost, we make a valuable soil builder for our granite island. It's good for our gardens, and good for the earth.

**Composting protects our climate.** In landfills, food waste takes up space and produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas that causes climate change.

For more information about  
**Vinalhaven Community Compost**  
contact Anna Poe

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And visit the **WasteWatchers** page at

**www.townofvinalhaven.org**

# FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

at the Vinalhaven Transfer Station



### *It's the Right Thing To Do!*

Recycle valuable resources by turning food scraps into nutrient-rich compost for our community

Vinalhaven Community Compost  
is a program of the Town of Vinalhaven  
Made possible through a grant from MEDEP

# HOW-TO GUIDE for Food Scrap COMPOSTING



Vinalhaven Community Compost at the Transfer Station



## Yes ✓ FOOD SCRAPS

vegetables, fruit, peels, grains, coffee grounds  
eggshells, fish, spoiled and leftover foods

## UNCOATED FOOD PAPERS

tea bags, coffee filters, soiled napkins



## No ✗ MEAT, BONES, DAIRY

no meats and dairy, no large quantities of oil

## COMPOSTABLE “PLASTICS”

no bags/pail liners, no cups, no cutlery

## PRODUCE STICKERS

remove produce stickers

## Nope, not that!

Take time to **learn what doesn't belong** in the compost. When the wrong things end up in the collection bin, it makes the whole system less efficient—and more expensive—because we have to spend time picking things out. ***When in doubt, leave it out!***

- Remove produce stickers



- Remove packaging

- If you collect food scraps in a plastic bag, **discard the bag** in the trash after you dump out your scraps.



- **No poop, please!** Pet waste can contain harmful pathogens. Keep it out of the compost!



## Compostable Bandits!

Using **Certified Compostable Products** (cutlery, plates, cups, bowls, etc.) for cookouts, parties, and events is always a better option than disposable products that can only be discarded in a landfill. Unfortunately our compost system cannot handle these products. If you have large quantities of compostable products to dispose of, **please DO NOT put them in the collection bin** at the Transfer Station! Instead, **contact WasteWatchers in advance**—we will work with you to find a disposal solution that keeps these products out of the landfill!

