



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Daily Update 4-19-20

SAVE MONEY BY COMPOSTING

This poem, sent in by Linnell Mather, reminds us of the yuck factor in decaying food, as well as the rich reward we get when we support its decomposition. When added to our rocky soil, compost improves soil porosity and water retention, and provides plants with essential nutrients.

Did you know that 20-40% of the weight of our “over the log” trash bags is food waste? If we could remove that waste from our trash bags, and not pay to ship it off island, we would not only save on our personal trash costs, we would save the Town thousands per year in hauling and dumping fees.

There are two ways to accomplish this, both of which are really easy! If you have a backyard, you can set up your own composting system. The trap shop can make you a trap wire bin, you can purchase a plastic container designed to provide air circulation, or better yet, build your own. All you need to do then is to walk out of the house and empty your bucket. Adding yard waste, such as grass clippings and leaves, will help it break down quicker. To learn more about successful home composting how-tos, check out this this Backyard Composting brochure from Maine DEP maine.gov/dep/sustainability/compost/homecomposting.pdf

The other is to bring your food waste to the transfer station. When you throw your (much lighter) bag into the trash container, you can empty your food waste into the container at its side. All you need is a collection bucket in your kitchen with a tight fitting lid. One stop does it all! Learn more about composting at the Transfer Station townofvinalhaven.org/sites/vinalhavenme/files/uploads/vhcompostbrochure.pdf

With time on our hands as we practice social distancing, this is a great habit to establish. It has so many benefits: lower transfer station costs for us as individuals, lower transfer station costs in our taxes, no maggots on the ferry, and rich, nutritious dirt made from carrot tops and coffee grounds. Yum!

As always, please contact the EOC with your questions and for assistance. Subscribe to “Town Alerts” on the Town’s website to automatically receive Daily Updates in your inbox.

Compost

“Come live with me and be my love,”
wrote Marlowe, but he meant:
Compost with me and rise above
the rather gamey scent exuded
while bacterial activities convert
old carrot tops and coffee grounds
into rich, nutritious dirt.
Thus proving that the offal piles
we’ve lived so long among
can be subdued by Nature’s wiles,
until God’s swill be dung.

—Author Unknown

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