

Composting FAQs

What Can and Cannot Be Composted

What CAN be composted?

- a. ALL food waste (including grains, breads, meat, dairy, fruits, vegetables, tea bags, and coffee grinds)
- b. napkins & paper towels
- c. compostable paper plates, bowls and utensils. Examples, bamboo utensils & Chinet ® paper products
- d. wooden coffee stirrers
- e. paper tea bags (staples are ok) and coffee grinds

What CANNOT be composted?

- a. ALL plastics, even if they are labelled as “compostable” or “biodegradable” *
- b. green compostable bags that line the compost bins*
- c. metal
- d. coffee lids
- e. sugar packets (these are lined with plastic coating)
- f. plastic ketchup or similar dressing and sauce packets (they are made from plastic)
- g. Styrofoam ® cups
- h. plastic bags
- i. foil or plastic bags that individually wrapped tea bags come in
- j. tea bags that are plastic

The Composting Process

Where does the compost go?

Depending on where the event is held, it could be mixed in one of the school’s compost bins or taken to the Mansfield transfer station leaf compost pile.

*Why don’t we allow compostable or biodegradable plastics?

Sadly, many “compostable” or “biodegradable” plastics do not compost well or they need the high heat of a commercial compost facility in order to turn to soil. The transfer station leaf compost pile, although large, is not managed as a commercial compost facility and therefore does not meet the high heat needs of compostable plastics. Currently there are no commercial facilities near Mansfield.