



# Indoor Collection Tips



## Tips to Preserve Life of Compostable Bags



### Store organics in unlined container until collection day

Keep organics in an unlined container. The night before your collection day, empty unlined pail of organics into compostable bag. Reducing the amount of time the wet organics are in a compostable bag will reduce the likelihood of the bag breaking. Take bagged organics out to your organics cart.



### Store dry organics separately

Dry organics include compostable paper and plastic products like paper towels, Kleenex, napkins, compostable to-go containers and more. Some residents will choose to store these items separately from their food scraps and then add them together before their collection day. Placing wet organics on top of the dry organics helps to soak up any liquids and decreases the chance that bags will break.

### Lose the liquids

When collecting organics in a lined kitchen container, drain off excess liquids from your organics before placing them in your kitchen collection container. For example, if you have a cut-up watermelon that has gone bad, drain out juice before placing the melon in your container. Liquids sitting in a compostable bag will weaken the bags. Put some used paper towels or crumpled newspapers on the bottom of your compostable bag to soak up liquids.



### Keep some breathing room

Place a layer of used paper towels or crumpled newspapers in between the bag and the bottom of your kitchen collection container. By doing this the bag has less of a chance of sticking to the bottom of the container.



### Use a compostable liner for your outdoor collection cart

Line your cart outside with either a large paper lawn & leaf bag or a large compostable plastic bag. Paper lawn and leaf bags are sold at all hardware stores. Large (33+ gallon) compostable plastic bags are available at some hardware stores. They may also be purchased online. Compostable plastic bags must be BPI certified compostable.

Using a cart liner allows you to collect organics in any unlined container inside your home. When your indoor container is full, the organics can be dumped directly in your lined outdoor cart. Be sure to tie the bag shut before your collection day.



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## Tips for controlling odors:



### Store the wet, smelly stuff in fridge or freezer until night before collection day

Have meat scraps and bones that you don't want to sit in your cart or pail all week? Store these items in the fridge or freezer until the night before your organics collection day. Then toss them in a compostable bag and place them in your cart.



### Use a vented container to help control odors

Use a container that has vents on the sides or the lid. Food waste decomposes faster and creates odors when its access to oxygen is cut off. Purchase a kitchen pail with a vented lid (with or without a carbon filter) or make one using an ice cream container or a coffee ground type container.

## Tips for controlling indoor pests:



On hot humid days you might end up with fruit flies near your organics. Here's a low-cost method to catch them: Take a jar and insert bait into it. Bait should be sweet, like a piece of fruit or apple cider vinegar. Make a cone with a piece of paper leaving small gap at pointed end and place pointed side in the jar. Tape the cone to the jar. When fruit flies enter through the cone, they cannot get back out.

## Home Container Labels:

Label containers in your home so guests know how to properly sort their waste. Stickers are available for your interior recycling, organics recycling, and trash containers located throughout your house. To order stickers to help improve your home collection system, call Solid Waste & Recycling at 612-673-2917 or email your request including the number of each type of stickers you want to [SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov).

