



As of July 2020, Jersey City's composting program has nine (9) different spots where residents can drop off their food scraps. For residents with backyards who are interested in making compost on their property, the City offers free backyard compost bins. More information about both of these programs can be found at:

<https://jcmakeitgreen.org/composting>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ABOUT THE PROGRAM

### How do I get a backyard composting bin?

To get a composting bin, please fill out the following form: <http://bit.ly/JerseyCityBackyardComposting>

### Where can I bring my compost in JC if I live in an apartment with no yard?

Bring your food scraps to one of our drop-off spots. For information, including location addresses and drop-off hours, please go to <https://jcmakeitgreen.org/composting>.

### I don't have a backyard, but I could use a bucket. Do you provide containers for indoor collection?

At this time, we are only providing backyard bins for those who can create compost on their own. However, you can use any airtight container for indoor collection from a simple ziplock bag to a high tech countertop bin that you can purchase. Many people like to reuse household items such as plastic yogurt tubs.

### Are there drop offs and/or deliveries services?

At this time we are taking applications for our curbside pick up program. You can fill out this form to apply: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/CityOfJerseyCity1/curbsidecompostingsignup>

### How do I submit my weekly data? Why does this matter?

Use this form to submit the total weight collected each week:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/CityOfJerseyCity1/weeklycompostcollectionform>.

*Use the formula:* 2 pounds per person in the household per week. So, if you have three people in your household, record "6" in the "weight in pounds" field. This is important because the City uses data to make decisions. By including your data, we can show interest, which leads to greater investment.

## What if we don't have a backyard? Can we still use the composting bin indoors?

The outdoor composting bins provided by the City are for outdoor use only. If you would like to explore composting in your apartment, consider worm composting or bokashi composting. You can find information about both methods at <https://jcmakeitgreen.org/composting>.

## What is done with the compostable material that is collected at the drop-off locations?

Some of it goes into our community garden program, and the rest of it is collected by our partners at Community Compost Company and processed at their facility.

## What tips or steps would you give for someone coming into this new?

It's easier than you think. Start by attending our workshop, and then be sure to be patient with yourself. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

## How do you initiate or propose the idea of composting to apartment complex community?

Try starting with a request to your condo board or homeowners association.

## Are worms required?

No worms are required for the backyard composting bins or for the drop-off composting program.

## For the drop off alternative, is there a special container needed?

You can use any container you would like to collect your food scraps. Just remember that plastic bags and "compostable" plastic bags are not accepted in the drop-off bins.

## Can I put in whole fruit and vegetables that have gone rotten? Or does it have to be food scraps only?

Breaking up food waste into smaller pieces will help speed up the process but it is not essential.

## I'd love more information about what bugs, aside from red wigglers, are o.k. in my compost bin.

Many bugs are beneficial to the composting process. Please use the following link for a fantastic resource of the organisms and insects that contribute to the compost pile - <http://compost.css.cornell.edu/invertebrates.html>

## Do I get some sort of tax credit when I compost in Jersey City? How can I claim it at the state level?

Unfortunately there is no tax credit currently available for composting.

## Do you have any advice on keeping wildlife from getting inside outdoor compost bins?

Wildlife should not be a problem if your compost bin is enclosed, but you can take the following added precautions:

- Keep all animal products out of your bin – meat, poultry, dairy, fish.
- Add hardware cloth or a screen to areas where burrowing animals can get through.
- If your bin is directly on top of soil, lay a piece of hardware cloth or a screen between the soil and the bottom of the bin.
- Turn your material regularly to prevent nesting.
- For maximum protection, add a vertical screen, about 6-8 inches into the ground) around the perimeter of the bin.

## I have a composter but want to understand how best to get good compost.

What you put in determines the quality of the finished material. Try to keep it free of animal products if you're using one of our backyard bins. Also don't forget to turn the compost with a rake or other compost turner. This will speed up the process. Finally adding leaves and other browns to your bin will keep the material balanced and odor free.