

# City of Minneapolis Backyard Composting Ordinance

## Ordinance 244.770. **Composting.**

(a) *Defined.* For the purposes of this article, composting is a microbial process that converts plant materials to a usable organic soil amendment or mulch.

(b) *Compost containers.* Composting shall be conducted within an enclosed container(s) not to exceed five-feet by five-feet by five-feet for lots less than five thousand (5,000) square feet, two (2) five-foot by five-foot by five-foot container(s) for lots five thousand (5,000) to ten thousand (10,000) square feet, and three (3) five-foot by five-foot by five-foot container(s) for lots greater than ten thousand (10,000) square feet. Containers shall be of a durable material; including, but not limited to, sturdy woven wire fencing, rot-resistant wood, or a commercially purchased composting unit which will provide for adequate aeration. Containers shall be constructed and maintained in a structurally sound manner.

(c) *Location on property.* The compost container(s) shall be located in the rear yard no closer than one foot to any rear or side property line nor closer than twenty (20) feet to any habitable building, other than the resident's own home.

(d) *Compost materials.* Only grass clippings, leaves, weeds that have not gone to seed, nondiseased plants, trimmings less than one-fourth inch in diameter, straw, sawdust, wood ashes, fruit or vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and commercially available compost ingredients may be placed in the compost container(s). Meat, bones, fat oils, grease, dairy products, feces, plastics or synthetic fibers shall not be placed in the compost container(s).

(e) *Maintenance.* Compost materials shall be layered, aerated, moistened, turned, managed and covered during inclement weather to promote effective decomposition of the materials in a safe, secure and sanitary manner.

(f) *Abatement.* All compost containers and/or compost materials not in compliance with this section shall be declared a public nuisance and are subject to abatement as provided in Chapter 227 of this Code.

(90-Or-245, § 1, 9-28-90)

Source: Go to [this website](#); click on Title 12: Housing; and choose chapter 244 – Maintenance codes, article VII – Maintenance by occupants; 244.770 – Composting.