

I want to compost but...

Respondents to a survey of Arlington residents said these were their major concerns about composting:

I DON'T KNOW HOW:

- If you would like your food scraps picked up at the curb with the rest of your trash, there are 4 subscription services that operate in the town of Arlington.
 - [Black Earth Compost](#), [Garbage to Gardens](#), [City Compost](#), [Bootstrap Compost](#)
- The Feed FiDO bins are a free food scrap drop off service offered by the town.
 - The bins are open at all hours of the day but they only take vegetarian food scraps
 - You can register for free [here!](#)
- If you have space, making your own compost pile in your yard is a great way to reduce food scraps. While it may seem intimidating, there are lots of great resources to help you get started.
 - Composting in Arlington is a website managed by the town that has updates on composting news in Arlington.
 - The DPW sells composting barrels for \$25, you can register to purchase one from the Reuse and Recycling center [here](#)



Contact the DPW Reuse and Recycling Center for composting materials once you sign up with a service.

- There are many great online guides to composting
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>
 - Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC): <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/composting-101>

THE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES ARE TOO EXPENSIVE:

- The Feed FiDO food scrap drop off is free; it is a great place to dispose of vegetarian food scraps.
 - You can register for Feed FiDO [here](#).
 - We are hoping to expand the FiDO program in the future to make it more accessible to those who live in other parts of town.
- If you have the time and space to make a compost pile in your backyard, or an indoor composter they are a free alternative where you get to keep the compost from your food scraps.

I'M AFRAID IT WILL ATTRACT RATS OR OTHER ANIMALS

- Subscription pick up and Feed FiDO drop off are emptied regularly enough that they don't attract rodents.
- It is also possible to mitigate the risk of rats getting into your at home compost pile
 - If you are using an enclosed composter placing hardware cloth, a wire mesh sold at most hardware stores, underneath to prevent rodents from getting in from below.
 - Stick to vegetarian scraps! Meats, dairy products, and oils create smells that attract rodents.
 - Make sure the food scraps are buried within your pile so they are not easily accessible.
 - Include brown organics, like leaves, in your pile to keep it hot.
 - More info on what not to include here: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home#:~:text=What%20Not%20To%20Compost%20and%20Why>



The Feed FiDO bins are located at:
- The Ed Burns Arena parking lot at
422 Summer Street
- The DPW offices at **51 Grove Street**

I DON'T HAVE SPACE

- Curbside pickup and Feed FiDO bins require very little space.
- Indoor composting is possible! Vermicomposters are small bins kept in the home that use worms to break down food waste.
 - EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/how-create-and-maintain-indoor-worm-composting-bin>
 - <https://www.thespruce.com/vermicomposting-setting-up-a-worm-bin-2539503>

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MY COMPOST AFTER IT'S MADE

- Unfortunately there is currently no place to drop off or donate compost right now.
- If you don't garden, one of your neighbors or friends might, or you could spread it on local trees or potted plants.



Learn more about composting in Arlington at:

arlingtonma.gov/recycle

Call: (781) 316-3108