

Welcome to Composting at Phillips Exeter Academy!

The faculty/dorm composting program helps reduce our solid waste output, decrease our environmental impact and save money in our waste-management efforts. All food waste is composted on site, behind the facilities management building.

This informational sheet will give you a brief overview of the composting program, explaining what compost is, why it is important to compost and how to participate in the program here at Exeter.

WHAT IS COMPOST?

Composting is nature's recycling system. Organic matter made up of carbon and nitrogen is broken down in aerobic conditions by such decomposers as worms, slugs, insects and bacteria. The resulting product is compost: a natural and nutrient-rich fertilizer that is great for gardening and soil reconditioning. A composting pile can heat up to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, allowing food scraps to decompose even during cold winters.

WHY SHOULD I COMPOST?

There are many good reasons to compost your food scraps.

- Composting can reduce the amount of waste you send to the landfill by 20 percent or more. This will save money and reduce refuse in the waste stream.
- Throwing food scraps into a separate receptacle is just another form of recycling, and just as easy as recycling your newspapers, cans and bottles.
- Compost reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and mulches used on landscaping, and thus decreases runoff of landscaping chemicals into streams and rivers.
- Compost improves the structure, texture and aeration of the soil, enabling plants to develop stronger, deeper root systems.

HOW DO I COMPOST AT EXETER?

Composting at Exeter is easy!

- All dorms will receive a compost pail for their kitchens, which will be delivered by an E-Proctor. Your dorm E-Proctor will be responsible for this pail.
- All resident faculty are eligible to receive a compost pail. Just email Jennifer Wilhelm, Exeter's Sustainability coordinator, at jwilhelm@exeter.edu to express your interest in the program.
- Begin composting! Place all acceptable food scraps in your new compost pail (refer to the list attached to your pail).

- Your food waste will be collected by Danele Smith, Grounds **every Monday and Friday morning**. Please place your pail outside the main entrance of your dorm building, or if you do not live in a dorm, outside the dorm building closest to you, *before 9 a.m.* The pail will be emptied and left outside in the same location.
- Please be sure to rinse your compost pail each week after it has been emptied to keep it clean and odor free.

PLEASE NOTE:

- You are responsible for the composting pail assigned to you. Participation in this program requires your commitment to putting the pail outside your dorm building every Monday and Friday morning. Neither the custodians nor the E-Proctors are responsible for your composting pail. If you move, or are no longer interested in participating in the composting program, please return the pail to Jennifer Wilhelm.
- Each composting pail has a carbon filter on top to reduce odor. This filter can be replaced once every three months. Please use the replacement filters given to you with your pail. When you run out and need replacement filters email jwilhelm@exter.edu.