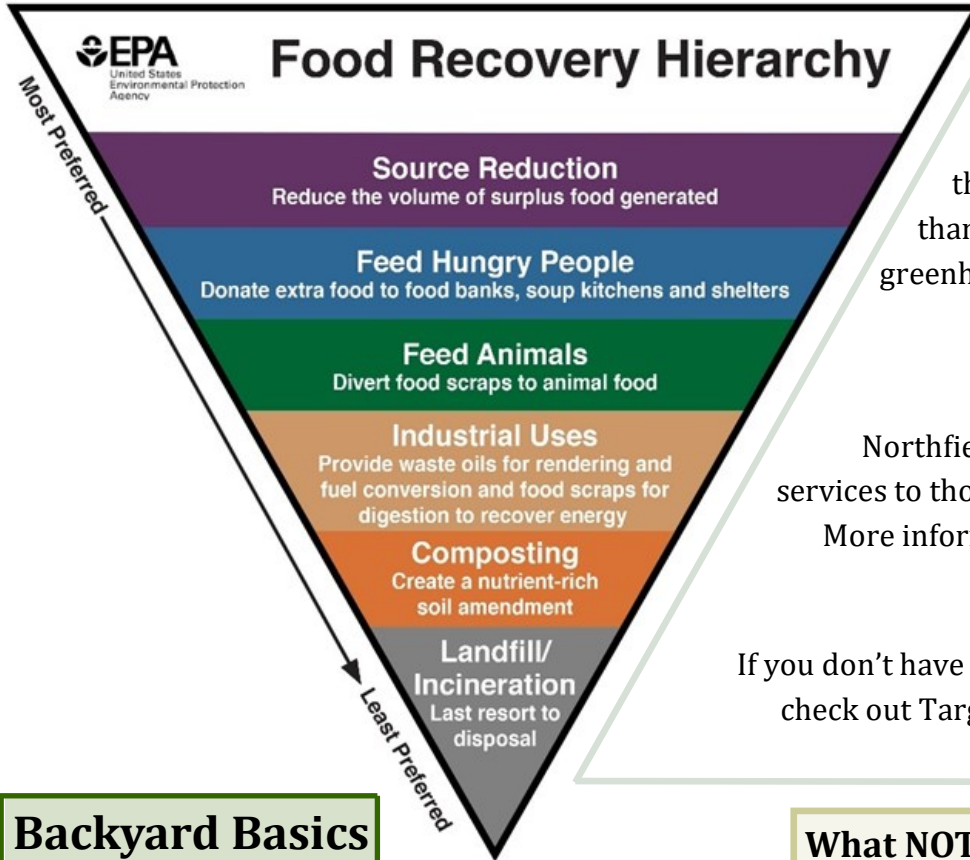


# COMPOSTING

RICE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



## Why Compost?

Composting is one of the last steps on the food recovery hierarchy, but is better than landfilling, which produces methane, a greenhouse gas with an environmental impact 25 times greater than carbon dioxide.

## Commercial Composting

Northfield Curbside Compost provides compost services to those in Northfield through a subscription. More information at [www.northfieldcompost.com](http://www.northfieldcompost.com).

## Indoor Composting

If you don't have enough space for backyard composting, check out Target, Amazon, Pela, and others for indoor composting options.

## Backyard Basics

### Compost Ingredients

- Greens: most food waste, coffee grounds, tea bags, some natural fibers such as cotton swabs, hair, and natural cotton, wool, and leather cloths
- Browns: eggshells, wood chips, yard waste, paper products
- Water: as needed to keep the pile moist

### Location

- Wherever you'd like!

### What To Do

- Mix equal parts of greens and browns and add water as needed to keep mixture moist.
- Turning the mix will increase composting speed, and can be done as little or as often as you'd like. Turning compost will help if it starts to smell bad!

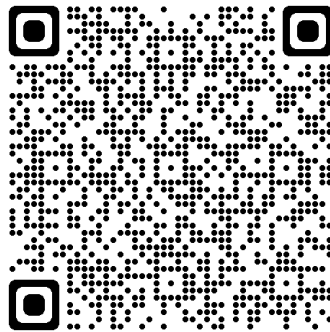
### When Will It Be Ready?

- Timing depends on location, what materials are in the bin, etc., but typically compost is ready within two months to a year.

## What NOT to Compost

Avoid composting meat, bones and dairy products in your backyard. They can be sent to commercial composting facilities, but backyard piles do not get hot enough to break them down. Also avoid inorganic wastes, chemicals and paints, oils and fats, charcoal and coal ash, and pet waste.

## Additional Resources



The internet has lots of composting resources. Some sources include the EPA, Pela, and Backyard Composting.

[www.backyardcomposting.org](http://www.backyardcomposting.org)

Rice County Environmental Services

[www.co.rice.mn.us/157/Environmental-Services](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/157/Environmental-Services)