

Frequently Asked Questions

When does the new service start?

Starting July 1, 2016, Forest Grove residents with yard debris collection service can add food scraps to their yard debris roll cart. Prior to July 1, any yard debris roll carts containing food scraps will **NOT** be picked up by Waste Management until they are free of food.

Where will the food scraps go?

Food scraps and yard debris will go to Nature's Needs compost facility in North Plains, which uses specialized processes to quickly break down the organic matter and create compost. The compost is then sold to gardeners, landscapers and other agricultural users.

What about apartments and condos?

At this time, the service is not available to multifamily communities that share the same collection service — apartments, condominiums or townhome communities of more than four units.

What will it cost?

The new food and yard debris collection service will increase Forest Grove residents' collection bill by \$1.50 each month.

Am I required to participate?

Food scraps collection will be available to all residents with yard debris collection service. Residents are not required to participate.

What if I already compost in my backyard?

Residents who compost in their backyard are encouraged to continue doing so. However, with the new food and yard debris collection service, many items that should not be composted in the backyard — such as meat, bones, dairy and grains — can now go in the food and yard debris roll cart.

What kind of impact does food scraps collection have?

The new food scraps collection service will reduce the amount of material Forest Grove sends to the landfill. The City aims to recover approximately 150 tons of food scraps each year.

How do I get my free compost?

Each customer may pick-up one cubic yard of free compost each year. Customers that receive food and yard debris collection service will get a coupon in the mail each year. Customers can redeem the coupon at Nature's Needs Compost Facility, 9570 NW 307th Ave, North Plains, 97133, 503-647-9489.

How much is one cubic yard of compost?

One cubic yard is a measure of volume. It is equivalent to 27 cubic feet. This will cover 325 square feet of ground with an inch of compost. A 6 x 6 x 2 foot truck bed is 72 cubic feet. A yard of compost can weigh between 1,000 and 1,600 pounds. Most full size trucks can haul one cubic yard of compost. Never load more than what your vehicle is specified to carry.

Do I have to take that much compost?

Customers can redeem their coupon for less than one cubic yard of compost.

Do I need a truck to pick-up my compost?

Customers can pick-up compost using trailers or by loading it into bags or bins. Nature's Needs Compost Facility does not offer bagged compost. Never load more than what your vehicle is specified to carry.

Can I bring two coupons and pick-up my neighbor's compost too?

Nature's Needs Compost Facility will only accept one coupon per customer. Multiple customers in a vehicle might be asked to show name and address on bills or similar items that match the coupons.