

Pet waste disposal



Pet waste from dogs, cats, pot bellied pigs and caged birds should never be included in a home compost pile or worm bin for the following reasons:

- Parasitic organisms, which may be found in pet waste, can be transmitted to humans.

- Cat droppings pose an extra hazard to pregnant women because they can contain either *Toxoplasma gondii* or *Toxocara cati*, both of which can be dangerous to unborn children.

- Bird droppings, including those from poultry, can pose a potential disease source by transmitting either *Salmonella* or *Chlamydia psittaci*. *Salmonella* can cause violent sickness. *Chlamydia psittaci* causes a respiratory condition known as *psittacosis*.

- Yard debris compost piles may not generate enough heat to destroy all pathogens and parasites found in pet waste.

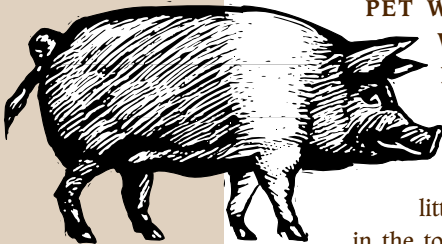


The best disposal method

The best method to dispose of pet waste is to bury wastes around your ornamental plants, shrubs, and trees. Dig a hole about 1 foot deep. Put 3 to 4 inches of pet waste at the bottom of the hole, and use a shovel to mix the wastes into the soil. Cover the wastes under at least 8 inches of soil to keep rodents and pets from digging it up. **NEVER BURY**

PET WASTES IN AREAS WHERE FOOD WILL EVER BE GROWN.

Pet waste can also be flushed down the toilet; **HOWEVER**, cat litter must **NEVER** be put in the toilet. It is acceptable to



Recycled



Recyclable

double-bag pet waste in plastic and place it in the garbage.

For more information

For more composting information, contact a Master Composter/Recycler at Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, (360) 882-4567. The Master Composter/Recycler program offers free composting workshops, composting how-to information, low-cost worm bin composting workshops, composting books to purchase, Master Composter/Recycler volunteer training, a reduced price compost bin, composting demonstration sites, teacher worm bin workshops, and speakers for neighborhood or community groups.



The Master Composter/Recycler program

is a cooperative effort of Clark County, Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, Yacolt, La Center and Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center. For information, please call (360) 882-4567.



For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.
V (360) 397-2025; TTY (360) 397-2445; E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov