

**RESIDENTIAL COMPOSTING**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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**HOW CAN I START COMPOSTING AT HOME?**

Begin by referring to the Home Composting guidance at [Michigan.gov/documents/DEQ/deq-whmd-swp-HomeComposting_247546_7.pdf](https://Michigan.gov/documents/DEQ/deq-whmd-swp-HomeComposting_247546_7.pdf). Local recycling and composting coordinators, along with the MSU Extension, are good sources of information. There are also many good gardening books and web sites, like [MasterComposter.com](https://MasterComposter.com), that you may find helpful.

Do not compost materials if they promote disease, cause odors, attract pests, or create other nuisances. These include meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, foods containing animal fats, and human/pet feces.

**HOW DO I FIND A COMPOST FACILITY THAT WILL TAKE MY YARD WASTE?**

Check with your [local recycling and composting coordinator](https://Michigan.gov/waste) to find the facilities nearest to you. A lists of registered composting facilities is be posted at [Michigan.gov/waste](https://Michigan.gov/waste). Click on Solid Waste | Solid Waste Programs | Composting.

**CAN I PUT INVASIVE WEEDS IN THE TRASH?**

No. At this time, only diseased or infested plants, or plants that were collected through an eradication or control program can be landfilled or incinerated. Examples of invasive plants include, but are not limited to, garlic mustard, purpose loosestrife, and spotted knapweed.

**WHAT IS AN ERADICATION OR CONTROL PROGRAM?**

There are various organizations and agencies with specific programs in Michigan that target the control and removal of invasive species. Some programs require people to officially join the group. For example, the Stewardship Network ([StewardshipNetwork.org](https://StewardshipNetwork.org)) requires you to become a member of the Network and sign an MOU (memorandum of understanding with them). If someone has become a member and is removing invasive species being specifically addressed by the Network on their private property, that waste is part of an eradication or control program and could be disposed of in a landfill or incinerator if those disposal facilities accept it.

If you have questions about participating in an eradication or control program, contact Mr. Aaron Hiday, Sustainable Materials Management Unit, at [HidayA@Michigan.gov](mailto:HidayA@Michigan.gov) or 517-282-7546.