

Chatham Township Environmental Commission (CTEC) July 2010
Backyard Composter Program



Save it to Spade it!

What is Backyard Composting?

Composting is nature's way of recycling! It is a process of recycling decomposed organic materials into a rich soil known as compost. Anything that was once living will decompose. Basically, backyard composting is an acceleration of the same process nature uses. If you have a balance of fallen leaves or straw (we call "browns") and kitchen food scraps and grass clippings (we call "greens"), then you have all you need to make compost. Finished compost looks like soil—dark brown, crumbly and smells like a forest floor.

10 good reasons why you should compost:

1. Yard and food waste make up 30% of the waste stream. Composting your kitchen and yard trimmings helps divert that waste from the landfill, waterways and water treatment facilities.
2. You will significantly reduce pest problems—and your use of pesticides.
3. Healthy plants and lawns from healthy soil look better, produce better and have a much greater ability to fight off pests and diseases.
4. Adding organic materials to the soil improves moisture retention and this saves you water, watering time, and money.
5. Adding decomposed organic material to the soil feeds beneficial organisms.
6. Compost amends both sandy and clay soils.
7. Compost provides a balanced, slow-release source of nutrients that helps the soil hold nutrients long enough for plants to use them.
8. Composting saves money—you avoid the cost of buying soil conditioners, bagged manure etc. and you save on your water bills!
9. Feeding your plants well will improve your own diet. Plants grown in depleted soils have a reduced nutrient content.
10. Home composting is a valuable tool in educating children about nature and the cycle of life.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There is a difference between a composter and a compost **pile**.

Backyard composters--enclosed containers--are allowed to be used in Chatham Township and Chatham Borough--there are no ordinances (laws) or regulations prohibiting the proper use and maintenance of a composter. No permits or etc. are required. The composters featured our "Save it to Spade it" Program enable our residents to add leaves, grasses, vegetable food scraps, coffee grinds, and many other kinds of "kitchen/food" waste (except meats and dairy items), because the composter has turning capability, cover, and locking mechanisms.

***Open "compost piles"**-- although good for "yard waste" like grass and leaves--are open, accessible, and usually are not turned periodically, so no "kitchen/food waste" is allowed in "compost piles" per ordinance (laws) in our area.

Good for Kitchen Compost:

- Vegetables and vegetable scraps
- Fruits, rinds, and peels
- Breads and cereals (no butter/milk/dairy on these)
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Egg shells (some people rinse w/ hot water or micro-wave to remove protein residue)
- Paper napkins
- Grains and pasta (no butters/sauces on these)

NO meat/poultry, dairy, or other animal products; no oils

For More Information:

- **Questions:** Chatham Township Environmental Commission ctec@chathamtownship.org or call (973) 635-4600 and leave a message for the Commissioner
- **Video:** Backyard Composting & Kitchen Scraps: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmFlzjqAQQw>
- **Literature:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension: http://www.njstormwater.org/tier_A/pdf/rutgershomecompost.pdf
- **Where to Purchase a backyard composter**
 - Email ctec@chathamtownship.org
 - Major home goods stores/some hardware stores
 - Composter featured in our Program here: the Norseman "Earth Machine" -Jeffrey Brown, VP, Rainbow Environmental Products; 800-842-0527; ecopromo@erols.com; C:201-452-4636

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Save it to Spade it!



Composters and Rain Barrels Program

Sponsored by the Environmental Commissions of
Chatham Township, Madison, Chatham Borough, Summit, and Berkeley Heights

Think SPRING and ORDER your composters and/or rain barrels by

Friday April 9, 2010

to get the discount price*

Our Program offers you--our residents and our community members and schools--the opportunity to purchase composter(s) and rain barrel(s) at discount prices, have your purchases delivered free to a convenient pick up location in your area, receive FREE lessons on composting and rain barrel use, and receive a FREE accessory too! *Product pre-payment is required for discount prices.

Kickoff Event: Friday, April 16, 2010, 7-8 pm

Chatham Middle School, 480 Main Street, Chatham Borough, NJ 07928

Attend the Kickoff Event to pick up your pre paid composters and/ or rain barrels and to get your free lessons and free accessory!

Save it to Spade it! The Norseman Earth Machine™ composter

- The Earth Machine is the number one selling composter in North America; \$55 Pre Order/Pre Pay Sale Price
- 80 gallon capacity, 33" overall height, 33" bottom diameter; approx. 16 lbs
- "Enclosed" composter bin
- Locking Lid
- Easy, snap together assembly
- Retrieval Door
- Anchor Pegs

[photo here]

Soak it--Don't Send it! The Norseman "System" Rain Barrel

- Unique shape and neutral color blends into any garden-scape
- 208 litre / 55 gallon; 34" ht, 26.1 diameter; approx 16 lbs; \$70 Pre order/Pre pay sale price
- Constructed of up to 50% recycled materials
- Mosquito mesh keeps bugs and leaf debris out
- Lid can be screwed onto base for added safety (comes with screws)
- Easily accommodates existing downspouts
- Overflow hose can be linked to another SYSTEM or can be directed away from the house

[photo here]

ORDER FORM BELOW

continued

Save it ~ Don't Send it !

- Composting is nature's way of recycling!
- Composting helps residents care for the environment, right in their own backyards, while reducing the amount of waste going to the landfills.
- Composters create a rich, all natural soil nutrient for landscapes, gardens, and houseplants and mulch for your lawn and garden.
- Compost also enhances soil's ability to retain moisture (reducing your water bills) and can reduce your reliance on chemical fertilizers (saves you money)
- Composters vs. Compost Piles: the composters offered in our Program enable us to add leaves, grasses, vegetable food scraps, coffee grinds, and many other kinds of "kitchen/food" waste, since the compost material can be easily turned and the composter has a cover and locking mechanisms. Note that open "compost piles"-- although good for "yard waste" like grass and leaves-----are open, accessible, and are usually not turned periodically; so no "kitchen/food waste" is allowed in "compost piles" in our area.

Soak it~Don't Send it !

- Rain barrels cut household water bills by up to 40%.
- Rain water--free from chlorine, water treatment chemicals, and toxic pesticides--is an excellent water source for lawns, plants and gardens.
- Rain barrels provide healthy green lawns and protect your water source quality.
- The use of rain barrels lowers municipal water demands and saves energy at water treatment facilities by reducing water pollution and storm water runoff.
- Rain barrels provide an extra source of water in case of drought by catching rainwater from roof drains.

Come learn about composting and rain barrel use when you come to pick up your pre paid items. Vendor will also have for sale aerators, "Presto" bins, and other seasonal accessories.

Yes, reserve mine today! =ORDER FORM due by 4/9/10= Don't Delay, Buy Today!

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

I am a resident of the municipality of _____

I want to buy a composter(s), the "Earth Machine" at \$55 each (circle quantity): 1 , 2 , 3 , ____.

I want to buy a rain barrel(s), the "System" at \$70 each (circle quantity): 1 , 2 , 3 , ____.

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

My check # _____ , dated _____ in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to "Rainbow Environmental Products"

If you are a Resident/School in: Mail form and check to:

Chatham Twp..... Chatham Township Enviro. Commission, 58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham Twp NJ 07928

Madison..... Betsy Uhlman, 121 Garfield Ave, Madison, NJ 07940

Chatham Boro..... Chatham Green Initiatives, 54 Fairmount Ave, Chatham NJ 07928

Summit..... Marian Glenn, Summit Environmental Commission, 13 Harvey Court, Summit, NJ 07901

Berkeley Heights..... Twp of Berkeley Heights, 29 Park Ave, Berkeley Hts, NJ 07922 Attn: Enviro. Commission

For more information: ctec@chathamtownship.org or call (973) 635-4600

The Composter/Rain Barrel Program is sponsored by

- Chatham Township Environmental Commission: www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC
- Chatham Borough Green Initiatives: www.sustainablechatham.com
- Madison Environmental Commission: <http://gov.rosenet.org/agencies/environmental>
- Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission: www.bh-ec.org/index.html
- Summit Environmental Commission: <http://www.ci.summit.nj.us/>

Updated March 2010

UPDATE: JULY 2010: WHERE TO BUY RAIN BARRELS:

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- Most major “home goods” stores and hardware stores
- Rain barrel featured in our Program here: the Norseman “System” rain barrel-[Jeffrey Brown, VP, Rainbow Environmental Products; 800-842-0527; \[ecopromo@erols.com\]\(mailto:ecopromo@erols.com\); C:201-452-4636](#)
- Morris County SCD Rain Barrel Purchase Program: Kenneth C. Sicknick, Resource Conservationist, Morris County Soil Conservation District (MCSCD) ; Courthouse, P.O. Box 900, Morristown, NJ 07963-0900; ksicknick@mcscd.org; Tel (973) 285-2953

Make Your Own Rain Barrel: Morris County SCD: Kenneth C. Sicknick (above) or Michele Bakacs, County Agent III, Environmental and Resource Management Agent, Middlesex and Union County, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County, 42 Riva Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4734; tel. 732-398-5274 or 732-398-5276; bakacs@njaes