Setting up your home for backyard composting and organics recycling
Home set-up considerations

• **Size of bin:**
  – Smaller bins, emptied less frequently work well for smaller families and minimize odors.
  – Medium or large bins work well for larger families but need to be emptied weekly.

• **Type of bin:**
  – Opt for durable bins that are visually pleasing enough to be out and easily accessible.
  – Small or medium hands-free step cans and garbage bins are low cost and easy to find at local retailers.

Home set-up considerations

- **BPI-certified compostable bag liners:**
  - Backyard compost containers don’t require a liner.
  - Organics recycling containers do need a liner.
  - Look for certification label at right to ensure bag is compostable.

- **Frequency of disposal:**
  - Backyard compost bins can be emptied as needed.
  - Organics recycling containers should be emptied every week.

- **Transporting organics to the Drop-off Site:**
  - Watertight storage totes or reusable bags minimize spills and waste.
Backyard composting only home set-up

Countertop bin without a liner, dumped directly in a backyard compost bin.

Many countertop bins are dishwasher safe.

Food storage container - no special bin necessary!

Can be used as a countertop or in-fridge bin.

Organics recycling only home set-up

Large organics bin lined with a BPI-certified compostable bag. Emptied frequently.

Smaller trash bin, emptied as-needed.

Organics recycling only home set-up

Small organics bin for “wet” organics. Lined with a BPI-certified compostable bag, emptied frequently.

Large organics bin for “dry” organics, lined with a BPI-certified compostable bag. Emptied less frequently.

Small trash bin without a lid, emptied as needed.
Backyard composting & organics recycling home set-up

Small unlined countertop bin for backyard organics, emptied frequently.

Trash bin without a lid, emptied monthly.

Small organics bin lined with BPI-certified compostable bag. Empty frequently.

More helpful hints

Transfer organics from a small indoor bin to a larger outdoor bin lined with a BPI-certified compostable bag to save indoor space and minimize smells.

Keep meat, dairy, bones, and other very wet materials in a tub in your fridge or freezer. Empty the tub into your other organics just before heading to the Drop-off Site.

Download free color labels for your organics and backyard compost containers at www.macgrove.org.