

# FAQ: Frequently-Asked Questions about Ann Arbor's Compost Carts

[www.a2gov.org/carts](http://www.a2gov.org/carts) Updated May 9, 2008

## 1. What are Ann Arbor's compost carts? Now THREE SIZES available!

The 96, 45, and 35-gallon compost carts have similar benefits as the city's A2 trash carts. The carts:

- Are a new option for yard waste collection.
- Offer a convenient cart for residents to roll around the yard as they collect debris.
- Reduce the need for residents to purchase paper yard waste bags or to bundle branches.
- Reduce worker injuries from manually lifting overweight compost cans and risks from protruding branches.
- Are made in Michigan with recycled plastic content.

## HOW TO PURCHASE A COMPOST CART

### 2. Who is eligible to use a compost cart?

Residents in the City of Ann Arbor with seasonal curbside compost collection have the option to purchase the compost carts for their yard trimmings. Business and multi-family locations already make other arrangements for landscaping services.

### 3. How do I order or purchase a compost cart for the \$25 rate before May 31, 2008?

Ann Arbor residents have the option to purchase special compost carts during April and May for a one-time only cost of \$25 for all sizes for the first cart per address. Carts may be purchased online at [www.a2gov.org/carts](http://www.a2gov.org/carts) with the cost added to the resident's water utility bill or by contacting the city's Customer Service Center, 220 E. Huron during business hours in person or by phone at (734) 994-2807. Customers may pay by credit card, check, or cash. Additional compost carts delivered to the same address and pre-paid by May 31 may be purchased for a one-time cost of \$50 each. **The pre-order option includes home delivery of the cart in June.**

### 4. What happens if I order my compost cart after May 31, 2008?

Compost carts purchased after May 31 will cost \$50, payable by any of the methods listed above—online or via the Customer Service Center—and may be picked up from the city's Wheeler Service Center, 4251 Stone School Road near East Ellsworth Road.

### 5. Can I see the compost cart before making my decision to buy one?

The compost carts are similar shapes and sizes as the city's A2 trash cart. (The standard A2 trash cart is a smaller 64-gallon size.) A photo is posted online at [www.a2gov.org/carts](http://www.a2gov.org/carts). Sample carts are also on view during business hours at the Customer Service Center, 220 E. Huron.

### 6. I have a big yard. Can I purchase more than one compost cart?

Residents may purchase additional carts for \$50/each. The same methods of payment and pre-ordering deadlines listed in #3 above apply. For an additional cart to be home delivered in June, please order and pre-pay @\$50 by May 31, 2008.

### 7. I already pre-ordered a 96-gallon cart but would prefer a smaller cart—how do I change my order?

If you previously ordered a 96 gallon cart, you will be receiving a confirmation in the mail the week of May 19th. If you would like to change your cart size, please submit the postage paid return card that will be included in that mailing.

## HOW TO USE A COMPOST CART

### 8. What can I put into the compost cart?

Please put brush, leaves, plants, vegetative prunings, crabapples, etc. Do not include dirt, stones, cement, trash, or branches over 6 inches in diameter or more than 4 feet long.

**9. Can I put paper yard waste bags or bundled brush outside my Compostable cart?**

Yes. If you have more material than fits in the compost cart, you may also use paper bags and bundles. Fall street leaf pickups will be provided for the leaf season.

**10. Do I HAVE to use a compost cart for my yard debris?**

No. You may choose to use paper yard waste bags or bundles of brush instead of a compost cart.

**11. Can I ever use the compost cart for trash?**

No. The compost carts have a special color and imprint to keep them separate from the blue A2 trash carts. Trash mixed with the compostables will contaminate the finished material.

**12. Can I still use a labeled trash can for compost collection?**

No. Friday, June 30, 2008 will be the last day of compost collection for all resident-provided 30-35 gallon labeled trash cans.

**13. How do I place the Compostable cart at the curb for pickups?**

The same rules apply to the Compostable cart as for the A2 carts. Please place the cart at the curb before 7 a.m. on your weekly collection day. Allow at least 3' between the Compost cart and the A2 Cart and other obstacles, such as utility poles, trees, vehicles, and recycling bins. This space allows the automated truck arms to grasp the carts without tipping other containers. No solid waste materials may be placed under or within 3' for utility pole guy wires. The cart's serial number should face the street (handle facing the sidewalk). Please keep the lid closed since overflowing carts will spill debris as lifted.

**COMPOST CART HOME DELIVERY & OLD TRASH CAN PICKUP: JULY 2008**

**14. When will my compost cart be delivered?**

Compost carts are scheduled to be distributed during June 9-27. The city is able to offer the home delivery service as part of the vendor contract package, which includes the initial cart order and delivery. Thereafter, residents will pick up carts from the Wheeler Service Center.

**15. Do I have to be home when the cart is delivered?**

No. There is no need to personally accept the cart.

**16. What can I do with my old trashcans?**

The city will pick up your old cans at no charge the week of July 7-11. Please leave them at the curb on your normal solid waste collection day. Efforts will be made to reuse or recycle the old cans. Alternatively, you may choose to reuse the cans at home for storage of birdseed, equipment, mulches, etc. Some residents may wish to use your cans for on-site collection in your yard, and empty the cans into the wheeled cart for curbside collection. A diagram of converting usable trash cans into rain barrels is posted at [www.a2gov.org/carts](http://www.a2gov.org/carts).

**OTHER QUESTIONS**

**17. I receive special side door trash and recycling pickup provided to disabled residents. May I get that service for yard waste collection?**

No. Side door pickups are not provided for compost materials. It is assumed that disabled residents must make other arrangements for yard work and handling the variable quantities of yard debris.

**18. May I buy or use any cart other than the city-provided compost cart?**

No. The city-provided carts assure compatibility of city-equipment for service.

**19. May I sell back my compost cart to the city?**

No, the cart is not returnable. If you choose to transfer the location of use for the compost cart, please notify the Customer Service Center at (734) 994-2807 of the new address where it will be used. The serial numbers of each cart are recorded to the original owner in order to discourage theft.