

## **What Not to Compost and Why**

### **Black walnut tree leaves or twigs**

Releases substances that might be harmful to plants

### **Coal or charcoal ash**

Might contain substances harmful to plants

### **Dairy products** (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs\*

Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies

### **Diseased or insect-ridden plants**

Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants

### **Fats, grease, lard, or oils\***

Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies

### **Meat or fish bones and scraps\***

Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies

### **Pet wastes** (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)\*

Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans

### **Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides**

Might kill beneficial composting organisms

\* Check with your local composting or recycling coordinator to see if these organics are accepted by your community curbside or drop-off composting program.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>