



Do NOT put food scraps

down the drain!

ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS (septic tank + leachfield)

- ! Septic systems are not designed to handle food waste
- \$ Food scraps may cause costly septic system failure
- \$ Increased need to pump out septic and grease tanks
- \$ Increased need for filter maintenance
- \$ May reduce lifespan of leachfields
- \$ Increased risk of plugging pipes and pumps
- \$ May require pre-treatment and larger leachfield
- ! May require state and local permits

For more information:
septic.vermont.gov / 802-828-1535

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS (sewer)

- ! Sewer systems are not designed to handle food waste
- \$ May violate local ordinance, resulting in fines
- \$ Increased need to pump out grease tanks
- \$ Increased risk of plugging pipes and pumps
- \$ May require installing pre-treatment equipment
- ! May require state and local permits

For more information:
wastewater.vermont.gov / 802-828-1535

- ✓ Small amounts, like what's leftover after emptying condiment tubs, are ok
- ✓ Sending quality food to a food bank, and scraps to a farmer or composter creates value for your community
- ✓ Anaerobic digestion may also be an option, especially for fats/oils/ grease and wastes from food processing such as ice cream, cheese, & beer making

Okay, so what *SHOULD* you do with food waste?

Donate quality unserved food to feed hungry people
(14% of Vermonters are food-insecure)

Other food waste should be fed to livestock, composted, or anaerobically digested.

Contact your Solid Waste District, Alliance, or Town to find food scraps collection service providers near you at vtrecycles.com.

Food Recovery Hierarchy

