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](http://vtrecycles.com).

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**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](http://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](http://wastewater.vermont.gov) / 802-828-1535