



# 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](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

- ✓ 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).

### Food Recovery Hierarchy

