

ORDINANCE O-8-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 3  
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
(Compost Boxes)

Introduced by Alderman Englebert.

The Common Council of the City of Menasha does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: Amend Title 8, Chapter 3, Sec. 8-3-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Menasha, Wisconsin as follows:

**TITLE – HEALTH AND SANITATION**

**CHAPTER 3**

Refuse Disposal and Collection

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**SEC. 8-3-9 COMPOST BOXES. COMPOSTING.**

- ~~(a) No occupant or owner may keep a compost box larger than 5 cubic yards.~~
- ~~(b) No compost box may be placed in front of the nearest wall or the house or structure to any street.~~
- ~~(c) All compost boxes must be maintained in such a fashion so as to not become unsightly nor to emit or cause any foul, offensive, nauseous, noxious, or other disagreeable odor, effluvia or stench.~~
- ~~(d) Any violation of this section shall constitute a public nuisance whose abatement shall be subject to Sec. 11-7-5.~~
- (a) **PURPOSE AND INTENT.** The purpose of this section is to promote the recycling of yard wastes through composting, and to establish minimum standards for proper compost maintenance.
- (b) **DEFINITION.** Composting means the controlled microbial decomposition of the organic fraction of yard waste producing compost, a humus-like product used as a soil conditioner.
- (c) **APPLICABILITY.** This section applies to composting on residential properties.
- (d) **WHERE PERMITTED.** Composting is permitted in side or rear yard areas as defined in Sec. 13-1-160(a)(127) and (128) subject to the following setbacks and limitations:
  - (1) Compost piles and bins shall be located no closer than 3 feet to a lot line and not less than 20 feet from a neighboring dwelling unit.
  - (2) Compost piles and bins shall not be located within a drainage easement or floodway, or otherwise obstruct the flow of surface water.

(e) **MAINTENANCE.** All composting shall be maintained using Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or United States Department of Agriculture published composting procedures to comply with the following requirements:

- (1) All compost piles and bins shall be so maintained as to prevent the attraction or harborage of vermin. The presence or sign of vermin in or near a compost pile or bin shall be cause for the Health Department to proceed under Sec.11-7-3(c).
- (2) All compost piles and bins shall be so maintained as to prevent unpleasant odors. A detectable unpleasant odor at the property line shall constitute a violation of this section. Compost bins containing fruits or vegetables shall be kept covered, except when turning.
- (3) Compost piles and bins shall not exceed 150 cubic feet in aggregate area and 5 feet in height.

(f) **INGREDIENTS.**

- (1) No compost pile or bin shall contain any of the following:
  - (i) Cooked food scraps, except coffee grounds and tea leaves;
  - (ii) Fish, meat or other animal products;
  - (iii) Dairy products, oils or fats;
  - (iv) Manures;
  - (v) Large items that will impede the composting process.
- (2) Permitted ingredients in a compost pile or bin shall include:
  - (i) Yard waste;
  - (ii) Raw vegetable and fruit scraps that are suitable for composting, only if contained in a covered bin;
  - (iii) Egg shells;
  - (iv) Commercial compost additives.

(g) **OWNER RESPONSIBILITY.** Every owner or operator of property upon which there is composting shall be responsible for complying with the requirements of this subsection.

(h) **PUBLIC NUISANCE.** Any violation of this section shall constitute a public nuisance.

SECTION 2: This amending Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed and approved this        day of        , 2014.

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Donald Merkes, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk