

# Locally Made Compost and Wood Chips

## **Bismarck**

Offers two free garbage cans of compost to residents. Sells wood chips to residents and businesses by the ton, pound or cubic yard. 701.355.1700 or [www.bismarck.org](http://www.bismarck.org)

## **Dickinson**

Sells compost and wood chips to residents and businesses. 701.456.7871

## **Dickinson**

### **Stockmen's Livestock Exchange West**

Sells compost and wood chips to residents and businesses. 701.255.8145

## **Ellendale**

Offers free compost and wood chips to residents. 701.349.3252

## **Minot**

Offers free compost, wood, wood chips, etc. Materials are not store-purchase quality. 701.857.4140



## **Fargo/West Fargo**

Offers one free yard each of compost and wood chips to residents every spring and fall. Additional compost is \$10 per yard and additional wood chips are \$8 per yard. Businesses can purchase product at the same rates. 701.241.1449

## **Grand Forks Park District Forestry Department**

Offers one pickup load of compost to residents for free while supplies last. 701.746.2750

## **Williston**

Offers free compost and wood chips; must pay a fee to use the loader. Compost is limited to truck load; wood chips are unlimited. 701.577.6368

*If your city is not listed, call the city directly to inquire about compost and wood chips.*

*The North Dakota Department of Health does not guarantee the quality of compost or wood chip vendors. The purpose of this guide is to provide information only.*



North Dakota Department of Health  
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918 E. Divide  
Bismarck, N.D. 58501-1947  
701.328.5166  
[www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov)

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# Using Compost and Wood Chips



## A Guide for Homeowners and Businesses



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

# Compost & Wood Chips

Some cities collect leaves, lawn clippings and tree trimmings separately and use them to make compost and wood chips. These recycled resources help reduce waste by as much as 30 percent and are great for gardens and landscaping.

**Compost** comes from the controlled decay of leaves, grass and other organic material. The end result is a rich soil additive that is essential for good plant growth.

Compost is nature's fertilizer and soil conditioner, providing soil nutrients and organic matter. Compost improves the ability of soil to absorb and hold water and nutrients. Plants grow better with compost!

**Wood chips** are ground tree branches and tree trunks. Using wood chips helps plant growth and puts valuable material back on the landscape.



# Compost



## Benefits

- Supplies nutrients and soil organisms
- Improves soil structure and productivity
- Improves moisture management
- Promotes grass growth in difficult areas
- Modifies and stabilizes soil chemistry
- Helps hold nutrients in the soil

## Uses

- Soil additive
- Turf establishment and fertilizer
- Garden bed preparation
- Nursery production
- Roadside vegetation
- Garden bed mulch
- Erosion control
- Manufactured topsoil
- Container/potting soil supplement
- Landscape (gardens, yards and raised planters)
- Backfill mixes (tree, shrub plantings)
- Golf courses (tee, green, divot mixes)

# Wood Chips

## Benefits

- Insulates soil
- Conserves moisture
- Controls weeds
- Reduces erosion
- Reduces maintenance
- Attractive
- Economical
- Grinding prevents Dutch elm disease
- Lightweight

## Uses

- Landscape mulch
- Tree plantings
- Weed barrier
- Playgrounds
- Pathways
- Temporary berms
- Additive to compost piles

