You just finished your delicious meal at one of Cornell Dining’s establishments. Now where do you put your “trash”? 
Let’s start trash talking

STEP ONE
COMPOST

STEP TWO
RECYCLE

STEP THREE
LANDFILL
Step one:
Check to see if your materials are compostable.
Know your “trash”

Composting 101

Cornell Dining
Towering Above the Rest
What is compost?

Compost is a decomposed soil supplement that is produced from organic matter – things like food scraps, paper products, and plant-based plastics.
The organic matter in the yellow bins is picked up by Cornell Farm Services and taken to a facility about three miles from campus, where it's converted into usable compost.

This usable compost is then applied as a fertilizer substitute for landscaping and farming at Cornell’s research farms and around the Cornell campus.
All organic matter is compostable:
- Food scraps
- All paper products and cardboard
- Wood
- PLA plastics
But, WAIT!

Although all paper products and cardboard could be composted, it is better for you to recycle your copy of the Cornell Daily Sun and that Cornell Dairy Farm milk carton to extend their product life cycles.
## What’s not compostable?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petro-plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chewing gum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal condiment packets (mustard, mayo, ketchup, soy sauce, etc)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Metal and glass can be **recycled**. The only thing you need to send to the **landfill** are petro-plastics.

---

**DON’T CONTAMINATE THE COMPOST BIN!**

- Plastic or metal bottles and cans
- Sushi containers
- Condiment wrappers
- Plastic bags
- Plastic wrap
- Muffin bags
- Soufflé cups
- Aluminum foil
Step Two:
Correctly sort your materials and dump the compostable ones into the compost bin.
You correctly dumped all the compostable items in the yellow bin. Good job!
Now, what about all that other stuff in your hand?
Step Three:
Check to see if the materials are recyclable.
Know your “trash”

Recycling 101

Cornell Dining
Towering Above the Rest
Recycling is the process of converting used materials into new products, which can help reduce the use of other new products.
Where do Cornell’s recyclables go?

All recyclable materials are picked up and processed by Tompkins County Solid Waste.

Visit their website for more info: http://www.recycletompkins.org/
## What is recyclable?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECYCLABLE PAPER</th>
<th>RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Newspaper</td>
<td>- Glass bottles and jars (without lids)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Corrugated cardboard and boxboard (i.e., pizza and cereal boxes)</td>
<td>- Metal cans and aluminum foil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mixed paper (i.e., office paper, posters, folders)</td>
<td>- Plastic bottles and jugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Paper milk and juice cartons (without lids)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s not recyclable?

- Food scraps (that’s compostable, remember?)
- Petro-plastic items, such as:
  - Bags
  - Some straws/coffee stirrers
  - Plastic cutlery (many eateries offer compostable cutlery)
  - Condiment packets
Step Four:
Correctly sort your materials and dump the recyclable ones into the recycling bin.
You correctly dumped all the recyclable items in the recycling bin. Good job!
Almost there! The items remaining in your hands are not compostable or recyclable, so throw them away in the landfill bin.
Know your “trash”

Landfill 101
What is the landfill?

A landfill is a carefully designed structure built into or on top of the ground in which trash is isolated from the surrounding environment (groundwater, air, rain).

This isolation is accomplished with a bottom liner and daily covering of soil.

Trash that ends up in the landfill stays there for a long time. Because there is little oxygen and moisture, trash does not break down. In fact, you could read a newspaper that was thrown into a landfill 40 years ago, if it was unburied.
Where does Cornell’s trash go?

Everything that you put in a landfill bin in the dining rooms, in the waste baskets in your residence halls, or trash cans around campus, gets trucked over 40 miles to the Seneca Meadows landfill.
Great! You learned the basics of trash talking at Cornell. Learn more at Composting FAQs to become a master of trash talking.

Any questions or comments? Feel free to email us at: sustainabledining@cornell.edu
Thank You for Trash Talking @ Cornell