



Thrifty Thursday: Bin Liners Begone!

Curious how to **ditch the plastic trash bin liner**? **Start composting!** Feed your garden or under-the-sink composting worms with your food waste, and return those nutrients to the soil. When you divert your sticky food waste to a compost bin, you can **simply line the bottom of your trash bin with paper**, and consolidate all of your trash into just one plastic bag each week. You can even freeze your meat scraps to add to the bin just before you put it out for collection. By removing food from your waste stream, you reduce the weight (and cost) of your town's trash, you create compost, and you minimize your plastic bag use all in one fell swoop!

But be warned — **don't add "bio-based" plastic to your compost, even so-called "compostable" or "biodegradable" plastic** — these simply mean that the plastic material includes elements of corn, sugar cane or other plant material, instead of being made completely from petroleum. It can only be composted in an anaerobic digester or industrial compost facility (not in your home compost pile), and these facilities do not commonly exist. Additionally, when a composting facility receives too many of these "bio-plastics", it can clog the composting process.

Photo: So-called compostable spoon after five months of "composting", Lesley McClurg