

How To

COMPOST

Composting is a great way to reduce food waste. Compost is decayed organic matter that, when mixed and managed properly, allows microbes in the soil to break down the waste to form a nutrient rich food source for plant growth. By Composting, you contribute to a healthy environment by keeping food waste out of landfills and investing it back into the soil.

Do It Yourself

Brown Material (for Carbon)

Leaves, Twigs, Nut Shells, Coffee Filters, Sawdust, Woodchips, Wool and Cotton Rags, Shredded Paper and Cardboard



Green Material (for Nitrogen)

Leaves, Grass Clippings, Vegetable and Fruit Scraps, Coffee Grounds, Tea Leaves, Hair and Lint



Water



1 Find a Shady place near a **Water** source to build your Compost box. (3ft x 3ft x 3ft = 1yd³) Use plastic bins, trash cans or pallets. Drills holes underneath and along sides to make sure there is plenty of room for **air**.

2 Mix your **Browns** & **Greens** (3 parts Brown to 1 part Green)



3 Keep Compost **Moist** (not too wet) & turn to provide **aeration**. This helps break things down and keeps it from getting smelly.

4 As materials break down they release **heat**. You may see steam. This is normal.

5 When compost is **dark** with no sign of food or waste you are **DONE!** Spread on lawn, garden, or any soil that needs a little help.

DO NOT COMPOST

Metals, Glass, Non-degradable materials, Coal or Charcoal Ash, Black Walnut Tree Leaves or Twigs, Bones, Meat, Fats, Oils, Dairy Products, Eggs (Shells are fine), Pet Waste, Diseased Insects or Plants, or Chemically treated yard trimmings.



Vermicomposting

This alternate utilizes Red Wiggler Earthworms to break down the organic material faster. Worms are placed 8-16 inches in the dirt of the compost, then the compost is layered with more dirt, newspaper, and leaves. This bin still requires holes for ventilation and drainage. Fruit and Vegetables waste is then placed on top of the layers and will eventually turn into nutrient rich worm excrement. This requires less space and is good for homes with little to no yard space or less than ideal composting conditions.