

COMPOSTING 101

In 2014 alone, more than 38 million tons of food waste was generated. The EPA estimates that more food waste reaches landfills and incinerators than any other material.

HOW TO GET STARTED

ALL YOU NEED IS A BIN OR DRUM.



THE TWO TYPES OF BINS ARE: STATIONARY OR TUMBLER BINS.

ALL BINS REQUIRE HOLES FOR AIR CIRCULATION, BUT CAN BE KEPT IN EITHER SHADE OR SUN.

THERE ARE 3 INGREDIENTS TO COMPOST:

GREEN- COMPOST CONTAINING CARBON

BROWN- COMPOST CONTAINING NITROGEN

WATER



Add brown and green materials as collected, make sure to chop or shred large pieces.

Moisten dry materials when adding.

Mix and turn compost regularly.

With the right maintenance, composting will not omit odors and will produce nutrient rich soil at no cost to you.



How to tell if the compost is ready and has turned into dark rich soil

Compost could take anywhere from a few months to a year.

It will look and smell like soil.

If you are uncertain if it is ready, put some compost in a baggie and smell it before you seal. Then place it in a drawer for a couple of days. When you open the bag it should smell the same as it did—like soil. If the smell is worse then it needs more time in the pile.

Items You CAN Compost :

<p>"Green" Items <small>(High Nitrogen Content)</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruits Coffee Grounds and Filter/Teabags Egg Shells Grass Clippings Veggies 	<p>"Brown" Items <small>(High Carbon Content)</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shredded Paper/ Cardboard Dead Leaves Wood Chips/Bark/ Mulch/Old Top Soil Cow/ Horse Manure
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Stop! Avoid these Items :

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pet Waste/ Cat Litter Fats/ Oil/ Grease/ Lard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meats/Bones Anything Treated with Pesticides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy Products Coal/Charcoal
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Essential Tips :

- ✓ Line the bottom of the compost bin with 4-8 inches of coarse brown materials.
- ✓ Keep the compost moist.
- ✓ Mix/Aerate the compost 2-3 times per week.