

Acceptable For Composting

Clean paper Yard Trimmings
 Cardboard rolls Cotton Rags
 Grass clippings Hair & fur
 Hay & straw Houseplants
 Leaves Nut Shells
 Sawdust Tea Bags
 Wood chips Wool rags
 Eggshells Fireplace ashes
 Shredded Newspaper
 Coffee grounds and filters
 Dryer & vacuum cleaner lint
 Fruits & vegetables

Not Acceptable

Dairy Products
 Bones and Meat
 Lard and Oil
 Peanut Butter
 Glass
 Plastic
 Pet Wastes
 Weeds with Seeds
 Diseased or
 Infested Plants

Time Required to Produce Compost

Compost can be made in two or three weeks during the summer if the leaves and other materials are finely ground or shredded, turned daily to provide good aeration and supplied with sufficient moisture and nitrogen. The usual method, however, is to turn the pile once a month until the compost is ready to use. Compost made in the fall is usually not ready for use until the following summer. Shredding or grinding the material prior to adding it to the pile will expose a greater surface area to the bacteria and fungi, and will speed up the process.

~**Farmers** use compost for enhancing crops & for sod farms.

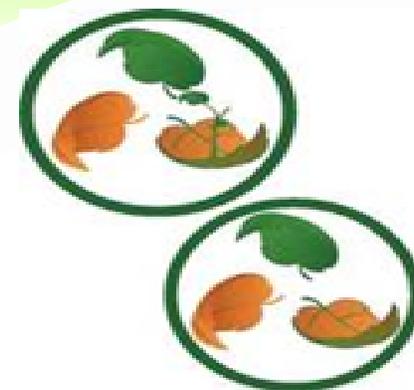
~**Landscapers** use compost as a soil amendment & for decorative purposes at properties, golf courses, & athletic fields.

~**Landfill operators** use compost to cover landfills & carry out reclamation projects.

~**Nurseries** use compost for enhancing plant & forest seedling crops in reforestation projects & to prevent certain plant diseases such as root rot.

~**Public agencies** use compost for landscaping highway median strips, parks, recreational areas, & other public property & remediating contaminated or eroded sites.

~**Homeowners** use mature compost to enrich gardens, improve the soil around trees & shrubs, use as soil additive for house plants & planter boxes & as a protective mulch for trees & shrubs.



COMPOSTING



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Composting...

- Is nature's way of recycling.
- Saves natural resources and reduces the amount of trash we throw out.
- Consists of leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable trimmings.
- Can reduce household trash by 25%.

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Good Composting Ingredients:

Apples and peels, cabbage, carrots, celery, potatoes, pumpkin shells, squash, tea leaves, tomatoes, grapefruit, lettuce, onion peels, pears, pineapple, coffee grounds, and egg shells.



Why Should We Use Compost?

Compost is good for gardens, flowerbeds and lawns. Using compost makes sturdy, faster growing plants. Composting leaves and other food scraps at home is very easy and useful. In addition, the composting process conserves natural resources and reduces solid waste by recycling valuable nutrients that otherwise would be wasted.

Compost Bins

Bins are not essential to the composting process. Excellent compost can be made in open piles. Bins can be made of logs or poles stacked or bound together; cinder blocks laid without mortar and with air spaces between them; snow fence or chicken wire supported by upright posts; a steel barrel with the bottom removed and holes punched in the sides; or a wide variety of other containers.



How To Build the Pile

First, find a well-drained spot out of direct sunlight. Now start building the pile. For best results, layer the materials as follows:

- Start with a layer of "brown" material like straw and leaves.
- Add a layer of "green" material, like grass clippings.
- Alternate layers of "brown" and "green" materials as they are available.
- Turn the mixture every three to five days. Water regularly to ensure enough moisture is present. If possible, keep the pile size around one cubic yard (3' x 3' x 3'). Ensure proper ventilation by punching three holes from the top to the bottom of the pile with a broomstick or a fence post.

What Do Worms Eat?

There are two types of material you will need in the bin for worm composting, bedding material & green ingredients: organic household materials, bedding materials are: dead plants, fall leaves, shredded newspaper, sawdust or straw. Vary the material and use a few handfuls of soil to the bedding material to help with worms' digestion. Don't pack down the composting—leave air space to allow free movement of the worms.