

Basics of making Compost

Brown Material

Every good compost pile has about twice as much brown, carbon-rich material like dry leaves, as it does green material.

Green Material

In order for your compost to heat up and break down into fertilizer, add green, nitrogen-rich material like vegetable scraps.

Water & Air

Compost should be as moist as a well wrung sponge and well aerated. Turn it regularly to let air in.

You can make compost in:

Heaps



Bins



Tumblers



Bays



What is compostable?

Did you know? Compost is the best natural fertilizer! The average garbage bin usually contains around 50% compostable waste, so composting can reduce household waste by as much as 50%!

Yes:

Nitrogen Rich: Green
 Vegetable & Fruit Scraps
 Grass Clippings (Fresh, Dry)
 Weeds (that have not gone to seed)
 Flowers
 Seaweed/Kelp
 Corn Cobs/Stalks (Fresh, Dry)
 Hedge Clippings
 Bread
 Coffee Grounds/Filters
 Tea Bags

Carbon Rich: Brown
 Dry Leaves
 Straw/Hay
 Pine Needles/Cones
 Twigs/Branches (chopped)
 Wood Ash
 Shredded Paper
 Shredded Cardboard
 Paper Towels
 Sawdust
 Eggshells

No:

Bones
 Peanut Butter
 Diseased Plants
 Plastics
 Metals
 Glossy Paper

For The Experienced Composter*:

Meat
 Bread
 Cooking Oils
 Manure
 Pet Waste
 Cooked Food
 Dairy Products

*These ingredients should only be added to a well managed compost pile

Troubleshooting

Symptom:

The compost smells of ammonia

The compost smells like rotten eggs

The center of the pile is dry

The center is damp and warm but nowhere else is

The compost is attracting pests

Problem:

Too Much Nitrogen-Rich Green Material

Not enough circulating air (anaerobic)

Not enough water

The pile is too small

Scraps are not properly covered

Solution:

Add brown matter and mix it into the pile

Aerate the pile. Turn it for several days until it's dry

Moisten materials while turning the pile

Collect new ingredients and mix them into the old pile

Do not add meat and bury scraps under soil

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