

COMPOSTING BASICS

KEEP OUT!

Cooked food
Oils
Bones
Meat or fish
Fats
Grease
Dairy
Glass
Aluminum
Plastic
Animal waste
(Non-herbivores)

BROWN STUFF

Leaves
Dirt
Cardboard
Paperbags
Wood ash
Newspaper
Straw
Eggshells

GREEN STUFF

Fruits
Vegetables
Grass
Tea bags
Coffee grounds
Plants
Animal waste
(Herbivores)



Aim for a 3:1 ratio between brown material and green material.

Water the compost as needed to speed things up.

Turn the compost to add air & regulate temperature.

LAYER IT UP: Try to alternate between layers of brown material and layers of green material to easily maintain a balance compost bin and deter pests.

MEET THE NEIGHBORS:

Insects, worms, and other living organisms are a huge part of composting! They will establish themselves naturally over time as you add to your bin, but you can also hire some help and add in worms yourself.

Maintaining a good brown-to-green ratio will keep the smell under control.

Avoid pests by covering all green stuff with a layer of brown stuff!

Use your compost as a soil amendment in your garden as a replacement for chemical fertilizers! If you don't have a garden, Seedleaf (Lexington) has a compost pickup program!

CHOOSING A BIN

Stationary bin or pile: The classic compost pile can be easily made in your backyard. Wire, wood, and even garbage cans can be used for this approach. This style will require manual turning every once in awhile to aerate the compost.

Good for: Backyard composting with a simple set-up process

Tumbling bin: Rotating or tumbling bins make it easier to turn the compost by allowing you to roll or crank a handle to turn it.

Good for: Producing compost quickly (in as few as five weeks), low-effort turning of the compost, and resisting pests

Worm bin: This bin, which is also called a *vermicomposting bin*, allows for year-round composting indoors. Build your own bin, add worms, and start composting! Keep the food covered with lots of shredded paper to deter fruit flies and to limit unwanted smells.

Good for: Composting in apartments or classrooms without yard space

For more information about composting, including tutorials for building your own bin, visit bggreensource.org and look under our "What You Can Do" tab for "Waste and Recycling"



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