

HOW TO: BASIC COMPOSTING

• HOT COMPOST
• ACTIVE COMPOST
• PASSIVE COMPOST

Composting is NATURE'S way to recycle!

Use your garden cuttings, kitchen scraps, a little air, a little water and natural decomposition to create healthy fertile soil!

It's easy - COMPOST HAPPENS!

Ingredients

- * 50% Greens - Nitrogen
- * 50% Browns - Carbon
- * Air
- * Water

THINGS TO COMPOST

- GREENS - nitrogen / 50%
- ⊙ Kitchen scraps: fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds & filters, tea, tea bags, bread and grains
 - ⊙ Fresh garden trimmings
 - ⊙ Fresh grass trimmings
 - ⊙ Pulled weeds (NO SEEDS!)
 - ⊙ Cow, chicken, rabbit manure

- BROWNS - carbon / 50%
- ⊙ Dry woody material
 - ⊙ Wood chips, twigs, sawdust
 - ⊙ Paper: newspaper, shredded white paper, cardboard (NO GLOSSY PAPER)
 - ⊙ Dry leaves or grass
 - ⊙ Straw or hay

Directions

◆ Construct a compost bin with wood, wire mesh, scrap pallets or a trash bin (with drilled holes)
The ideal size for a compost bin: 3ft wide x 3 ft deep x 3ft tall.



- ◆ Layer your compost bin with equal parts BROWNS + GREENS.
- ◆ Moist, but not too wet. Your compost should be

WET like a ringout sponge!

NOTE: Too WET and the compost will smell. Too DRY and the pile will not decompose.

FIX: Too WET? Add shredded newspaper.

- ◆ Place your bin in a shady spot, so your compost doesn't get dried out.
- ◆ Make sure your compost has ample air flow.

NOTE: Too little air causes the compost to smell like rotten eggs.

FIX: Turn pile and add more BROWNS.

- ◆ ACTIVE COMPOST - Turn pile on a regular basis.
 - Maintain proper moisture
 - Your pile will heat to 120°-150° F when it no longer heats - stop turning and let cure for 2-3 weeks.
 - Finished compost can be ready in ~12 weeks
- ◆ PASSIVE COMPOST - Less Labor intensive - but takes longer.
 - Turn ~ once per month and add water
 - Compost will take 6-18 months.

★ COMPOST IS FINISHED - when the contents turns dark brown and has a pleasant earthy aroma.
FOR BEST RESULTS: screen compost, return any remaining undecomposed pieces to the compost. Use finished compost and enjoy your healthy happy plants!

DO NOT COMPOST

- ⊘ meat, fish, bones, dairy products (they attract pests and creates unsafe compost)
- ⊘ Weeds with mature seeds (will spread weeds everywhere)
- ⊘ Dog and cat manure (adds unsafe pathogens)
- ⊘ Charcoal ashes
- ⊘ Treated wood products