

Tips and Guidelines

Here are some tips to remember when you begin composting:

- Add water to your composting pile on a regular basis
- Never include plant materials showing signs of disease
- Place larger materials at bottom of pile to allow air to circulate
- Try to use small pieces of material if at all possible
- Warm weather is better for your compost because internal temperature matters
- Avoid having too large a pile as it may interfere with the aeration
- It may be easier to use two compost piles, one for new material and one for ingredients already heating up inside



Making your own composting unit

Although you can go to the store and buy your own compost bin, you can also make your own at home. Here are some tips to follow:

- Make sure you have a lid that protects the pile from rain or snow. This also controls the moisture and it doesn't allow the smell to attract animals.
- You must put holes or vents somewhere in your compost bin. This allows circulation to run through the bin.



Environmental Initiatives

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Environmental Initiatives

Composting



The Natural Way to Recycle

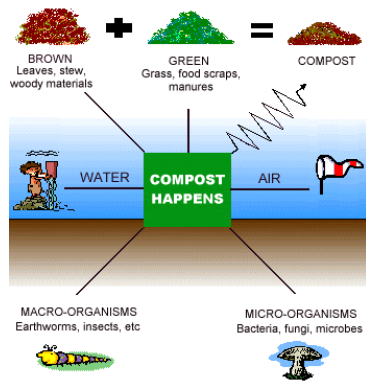
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Start Composting Today

What is composting?

Composting is a mixture of decaying organic matter used to improve soil structure and provide nutrients.



How does composting work?

To start composting you must combine two types of materials, 'browns' and 'greens'. Make sure to include thirty parts 'brown' to one part 'green'. After mixing your two materials together your compost pile will eventually heat up and then cool down. Once the pile cools down, the decomposition process is complete and you will end up with dark rich soil that has an earthy smell. Soil can then be used as fertilizer for flower gardening, herb gardening, organic lawn care and vegetable gardening.

What can you compost?

'**Browns**' are carbon-rich materials and may include:

- Lint
- Mulched leaves and grass
- Shredded paper
- Hair
- Manure
- Sawdust (non-treated wood)
- Wood chips

'**Greens**' are nitrogen-rich materials and may include:

- Evergreen needles
- Weeds (before they go to seed)
- Tea bags
- House plants
- Fruit, vegetables
- Coffee grounds
- Egg shells

What to avoid while composting

- Bones
- Cooking oils
- Dairy products
- Diseased or infected plants
- Glass
- Grease
- Meats
- Metals
- Plastic
- Weeds with mature seeds

Benefits to composting

Composting has many benefits, some are:

- Keeps soil and plants healthy
- Composting is completely free, the only cost is time
- Improves lawns and gardens
- You can make your own
- Helps extend landfill life which will help reduce pollution