



At Home Composting

Down
to
Earth

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What is Composting?

Composting is described as the natural breakdown of organic materials into a nutrient rich compost that can improve soil and plant health.

The idea behind composting is to create a warm, almost hot environment in the compost pile; this heat will help the decomposition phase in the pile and help speed up the process. Be sure to continually stir the pile so it doesn't get too hot, and so it can evenly decompose.

What is compostable?

There are brown and green classifications of composting; brown being organic items such as twigs, dead leaves, branches, straw, pine needles, and eggshells. Green is organic matter such as grass clippings, vegetable and fruit waste, coffee grounds, materials inside of used tea bags, and water. To have an effective compost, have more (but not a lot more) browns in the compost pile than greens.

Not all organic matter is compostable, some things that are not compostable are meat, bones, fat, dairy, oils, whole branches, logs, pet or human waste, charcoal, and sawdust of ash from treated wood. Adding these things to your compost may cause a foul odor and cause rotting, or the items in the list simply will not break down fast enough.





Needed Tools

Pitchfork
Rake
Shovel

Inexpensive Building Material
Soil from your garden or yard

Making the Mix

Fast Mix:

One part green two parts brown (chopped with a
mower)
4'x4'x4' Pile or a compost bin
Mix in two scoops of soil
Keep the pile as moist as a wrung out sponge
Turn once a week to let air in

Slow Composting:

layer green and brown waste and its accumulates
Water so compost is kept moist
After a year the materials at the bottom and
middle will be ready to use

In this scenario, you do not need to stir the pile
weekly.



Common Problems

If your compost smells bad: not enough air or too much
green material. Correct by turning the pile or adding more
brown waste.

Composts too slowly: not enough water. Correct by
adding more water and mixing.

Pile is damp and warm only in center: pile is too small.

Pile is damp and sweet smelling but has no heat: mix in
more green material.



Still have
Questions? Feel
free to give us a call
or ask us in person!