

Compost Basics

Why

"Backyard composting is arguable the single most effective activity individuals can do to help the environment."

- ☞ Compost returns essential nutrients to the soil to feed plants
- ☞ Decreases watering requirements AND improves drainage
- ☞ Reduces waste going to the landfill by as much as 50%

Where



Location:

- ☞ Set up near to the main source of materials.
- ☞ Ensure drainage.
- ☞ Keep away from trees to prevent root invasion.
- ☞ Best to have access on all sides.
- ☞ Consider placing on a raised bed.

How

Start with a layer of fluffy browns. Add layers of greens and browns and soil or old compost. Top with a layer of browns to inhibit flies or smell.



What



Nitrogen-rich greens:

- ✓ Kitchen scraps
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Coffee grounds and filter
- ✓ Yard waste
- ✓ Seaweed
- ✓ Weeds (no seeds)
- ✓ Manure from grass eaters
- ✓ Eggs shells, crushed
- ✓ Alfalfa meal
- ✓ Fish meal

Carbon-rich browns:

- ✓ Old leaves
- ✓ Straw
- ✓ Dried weeds and plants
- ✓ Sawdust
- ✓ Cornstalks
- ✓ Shredded newspaper or cardboard
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Bark
- ✓ Peanut shells

Leave it out:

- ✗ Fat
- ✗ Dog or cat feces
- ✗ Kitty litter
- ✗ Human waste
- ✗ Diseased plants
- ✗ Sludge, mud or gravel
- ✗ BBQ ashes or coals
- ✗ Invasive plants
- ✗ Non-biodegradable or toxic materials

Keeps Out Rats!



Speedibin
COMPOSTER



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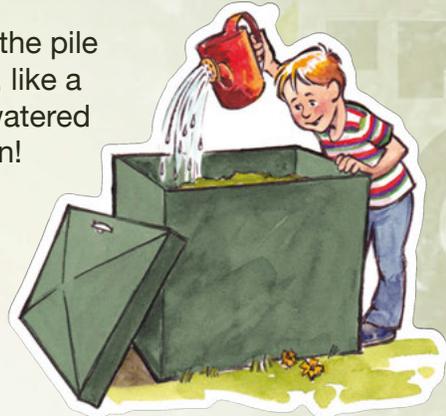
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Manage



To ensure aerobic decomposition, aerate the pile.

Keep the pile moist, like a well watered garden!



Hot and cold



Hot:

- Add the material all at once.
- Aerate every few days.
- Compost is ready in a few weeks.

Passive:

- Add materials gradually as collected.
- Doesn't get hot.
- Takes several months to fully decompose.

Use

Benefits to your garden:

- Prevents soil erosion
- Requires less watering
- Stores and releases nutrients to plants when needed.
- Neutralizes toxins
- Can eliminate need for fertilizer and pesticides
- Makes calcium, potassium, magnesium, iron and trace elements more available to plants.
- Plants become more nutritious and colourful



When the compost has finished it's active stage, turn it out for curing, use as a mulch, spread it on lawn, screen it for potting soil, add to gardens.

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