



WHY COMPOST?

Compost is organic matter disposed in a way that creates soil to nourish plants. This process is important as it uses organic waste to improve the cycle of Earth's decomposition while reducing harm from other waste methods.

REDUCE LANDFILL WASTE

Currently 30-40% of waste sent to landfills can be composted. This can prevent large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane emissions into the atmosphere.

IMPROVE SOILS

Composting helps encourage photosynthesis in plants, absorbing CO2 and nutrients back into the soil.

IMPROVE WATER CIRCULATION

Compost acts as a sponge for water circulation, ultimately decreasing runoff, preventing erosion, and filtering cleaner water into oceans.

HELP FARMERS

Composting can help farmers who grow our fruits and vegetables by providing more farmable land from reduced runoff and increased yields.



WHAT TO COMPOST?

Compostable materials are grouped into two simple categories: browns and greens. Your compost pile should have roughly two parts brown to one part green materials, alternately layered over each other. The brown materials provide carbon to your compost, the green materials provide nitrogen, and adding water to both helps break down the organic materials.

BROWNS



GREENS



Also keep in mind what NOT to compost as they may create odors, attract pests, or contain pathogens or other substances harmful to plants: coal, charcoal ash, dairy products, fats, grease, oils, meat, fish, bones, pet wastes such as cat litter.



HOW TO COMPOST?

You now know what to compost and why it is a beneficial process for the earth and communities—so how can you compost in your own home or backyard?

1.

FIND A GOOD LOCATION & METHOD

A dry, shady area with access to water is best. Research the best method, depending on your location.

2.

BUILD YOUR COMPOST PILE

Layer your compost alternating between browns and greens, keeping a rough ratio of one-third greens to two-third browns.

3.

ADD WATER

Moisten your dry materials as needed, making sure to keep the texture of a damp sponge.

4.

STIR WEEKLY

Stir your compost mixture every few weeks to keep the pile aerated. As you continue to add more material to your initial pile, stir it in rather than continuing to layer to encourage aeration.

5.

TEND AND WAIT

As you continue to add more material to your initial pile, stir it in rather than adding layers to encourage aeration.

6.

USE AND RE-USE YOUR ORGANIC MATERIAL

There are many options for utilizing your compost. Search opportunities in your area from donate to schools and community gardens, or use the compost for your own garden!

