

WHY RECYCLE ORGANIC WASTE?

- Composting is a simple and easy way to reduce waste. Compost creates an excellent organic fertiliser for your garden.
- Compost reduces the impact of chemical fertilizers that runoff into rivers and streams.
- Compost also increases soil stability, improves drainage and helps retain moisture.
- Reduce Green House Gasses by reducing CO2 emissions from vehicles used to transport waste offsite.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- 5 wooden pallets with slat spacing
- Wire or ropes
- Garden fork or long wooden stick

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

1

BUILD YOUR BIN

Place 1 pallet with slats up on the ground. Arrange the remaining pallets upright (short sides up) around each side of the base to form a box. Attach the sides at each corner with wire or rope.

2

CREATE FOUNDATION LAYERS

Place "brown ingredient" (leaves and twigs) at the bottom of the bin and water thoroughly. Add a layer of "green ingredients" (kitchen fruits and vegetable scraps, eggshells, flower, etc.) roughly the same thickness as the first layer. Add another brown layer followed by a green layer.

3

START RECYCLING

Now your recycling system is ready and you can add food scraps and other green materials to the bin. Keep alternating a green layer and a brown layer to build a balance compost.

**YOUR COMPOST IS READY
WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE RICH AND
DARK SOIL! SIMPLY SPREAD IT
OVER FLOWERBEDS AND
VEGETABLE GARDENS.**



YES! COMPOST

- ✓ Fruits
- ✓ Vegetables
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Coffee
- ✓ Flowers
- ✓ Hair
- ✓ Eggshells
- ✓ Nutshells
- ✓ Newspaper

NO! COMPOST

- ✗ Meat
- ✗ Bones
- ✗ Dairy
- ✗ Fish
- ✗ Diseased Plants
- ✗ Eggs
- ✗ Chemicals
- ✗ Plastics
- ✗ Styrofoam
- ✗ Metals

TIPS & TRICKS

Keep your compost aerated by turning it over or fluff it up every few weeks.

Break up large ingredients into smaller pieces to quicken the speed of composting.

Keep different containers in the kitchen and cafeteria to separate materials that can be composted.

Add a pallet on top as a lid and bury food scraps under leaves to keep animals away.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why does the compost smell?

A: It is a sign that your compost is out of balance, often due to a combination of too much moist and not enough air. Turn or fluff it to make sure it's aerated. Make sure there is a layer of brown material after every layer of green material.

Q: Why isn't the compost breaking down?

A: This can happen if the compost is too dry too wet or isn't receiving enough air. If it's too dry (no liquid comes out when a handful is squeezed) add water until it feels like a moist sponge. If it's too wet add brown materials like newspaper or straw to soak up moisture. Also it is important to regularly aerate the compost.

Q: Is it safe to handle compost with hands?

A: Yes. Compost is safe to handle as long as you have no open wounds on your hands and always wash hands with soap after handling compost.

Information based on:

<https://www.foodwise.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Compost-ONLINE.pdf>

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/compostbin.aspx>

<https://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/composting/print>

<https://greenactioncentre.ca/reduce-your-waste/why-should-i-compost/>