

Composting

- Is nature's way of recycling.
- Saves natural resources and reduces the amount of trash we throw out.
- Consists of leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable trimmings.
- Can reduce household trash by 25%.

Composting Ingredients

Apples and peels, cabbage, carrots, celery, potatoes, pumpkin shells, squash, tea leaves, tomatoes, grapefruit, lettuce, onion peels, pears, pineapple, coffee grounds, and egg shells

Why Should We Compost

Compost is good for gardens, flowerbeds and lawns. Using compost makes sturdy, faster growing plants. Composting leaves and other food scraps at home is very easy and useful. In addition, the composting process conserves natural resources and reduces solid waste by recycling valuable nutrients that otherwise would be wasted.

Compost Bins

Bins are not essential to the composting process. Excellent compost can be made in open piles. Bins can be made of logs or poles stacked or bound together; cinder blocks laid without mortar and with air spaces between them; snow fence or chicken wire supported by upright posts; a steel barrel with the bottom removed and holes punched in the sides; or a wide variety of other containers.

How To Build the Pile

First, find a well-drained spot out of direct sunlight. Now start building the pile. For best results, layer the materials as follows:

- 1) Start with a layer of "brown" material like straw and leaves.
- 2) Add a layer of "green" material, like grass clippings.
- 3) Alternate layers of "brown" and "green" materials as they are available.

Turn the mixture every three to five days. Water regularly to ensure enough moisture is present. If possible, keep the pile size around one cubic yard (3' x 3' x 3'). Ensure proper ventilation by punching three holes from the top to the bottom of the pile with a broomstick or a fence post.

Acceptable for Composting

Clean paper	Yard Trimmings
Cardboard rolls	Cotton Rags
Grass clippings	Hair & fur
Hay & straw	Houseplants
Leaves	Nut Shells
Sawdust	Tea Bags
Wood chips	Wool rags
Eggshells	Fireplace ashes
Shredded Newspaper	
Coffee grounds and filters	
Dryer & vacuum cleaner lint	
Fruits & vegetables	

Not Acceptable

Dairy Products
Bones and Meat
Lard and Oil
Peanut Butter
Glass
Plastic
Pet Wastes
Weeds with Seeds
Diseased or
Infested Plants
Painted, Treated or
Pressurized Wood

Time Required to Produce Compost

Compost can be made in two or three weeks during the summer if the leaves and other materials are finely ground or shredded, turned daily to provide good aeration and supplied with sufficient moisture and nitrogen. The usual method, however, is to turn the pile once a month until the compost is ready to use. Compost made in the fall is usually not ready for use until the following summer. Shredding or grinding the material prior to adding it to the pile will expose a greater surface area to the bacteria and fungi, and will speed up the process.

What Can Compost Be Used For?

~**Farmers** use compost for enhancing crops & for sod farms.

~**Landscapers** use compost as a soil amendment & for decorative purposes at properties, golf courses, & athletic fields.

~**Landfill operators** use compost to cover landfills & carry out reclamation projects.

~**Nurseries** use compost for enhancing plant & forest seedling

crops in reforestation projects & to prevent certain plant diseases such as root rot.

~**Public agencies** use compost for landscaping highway median strips, parks, recreational areas, & other public property & remediating contaminated or eroded sites.

~**Homeowners** use mature compost to enrich gardens, improve the soil around trees & shrubs, use as soil additive for house plants & planter boxes & as a protective mulch for trees & shrubs.



Our Mission:

To promote waste reduction, recycling, and the responsible disposal of all wastes from households, businesses, and industry by providing comprehensive, environmentally sound, cost-effective, and technically reliable solid waste management programs for all people living and working within Jefferson and Belmont Counties.



Composting Tips

**Jefferson-Belmont
Regional Solid Waste Authority
(JB Green Team)**

**Jefferson County Office
228 Technology Way
Steubenville, OH 43952
740-266-6899**

**Belmont County Office
67895 Pickering Rd.
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
740-296-5376**

www.jbgreenteam.org

