

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the process of breaking down organic materials turning them into nutrient-rich soil.

HOW DOES COMPOSTING WORK?

Microorganisms like bacteria and fungi and larger creatures like worms and insects will feed on organic materials breaking them down into simpler substances.



How do I compost?

1. Choose a method:

- Backyard composting (bin or pile compost), Vermicomposting (using worms), or using municipal service compost collections.

2. Select a location:

- Important for the area to be dry, shady, and near a water source

3. Build your pile:

- Start with your layer of browns then add greens and continue to layer.

4. Maintain your compost:

- Turn or mix your compost every 1-2 weeks.
- Keep the compost moist.

5. Harvest your compost:

- In 2-6 months your compost will look darker and have an earthy smell, after this you can use it around your home.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Smells like ammonia?

- Too much nitrogen, add some browns

Pile not breaking down?

- Too much carbon, add more greens

Pile too wet?

- Too much water or too many greens, mix in browns

WHAT DO YOU PUT IN A COMPOST?

GREENS (NITROGEN)

Fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee ground, grass clippings

BROWNS (CARBON)

Dried leaves, cardboard, sawdust

WATER

Keeping piles moist facilitates decomposition

AIR

Introducing oxygen by turning the pile accelerates process.

Balance is important in your compost!

As a general rule, keep a ratio of 2:1 (browns to greens) to keep your compost balanced.

