

Making Great Compost

In 5 simple steps

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Great Compost in 5 steps

1. Find the perfect spot

- a. Access
 - i. Make it easy to use by placing in a spot that is convenient to add food scraps regularly.
- b. Shade is best, but full sun is fine

2. Find the perfect Container

- a. Ensure your container
 - i. Allows for air flow with either air slits in the side but still holds the material inside
 - ii. Container should be at least 1m wide x 1 m long x 1m high

3. Start adding your compost material

- a. Collect your food scraps in the house
 - i. Keep the food scraps in a sealed container to avoid smells and fruit flies. Avoid meats and dairy.
- b. Collect brown materials when they are available
 - i. In the fall gather as many fall leaves as you can and store by your compost pile
- c. Add your material to the pile
 - i. Every time you add food scraps or green materials add the same or more of brown materials (such as leaves, wood chips, straw)
 - ii. Larger wood chips or twigs can be added as well to allow or air space in the pile

4. Turn your Compost Pile

- a. Mix your pile
 - i. Adds air to reinvigorate the microorganisms that are doing the work to break down the material
 - ii. Ensures all the material gets into the active center of the pile so it all breaks down.
 - iii. Definitely turn your compost pile if:
 1. It's not composting very quickly,
 2. It is getting too hot
 3. It's starting to smell bad.
- b. Add Water
 - i. A dry pile is a slow composting pile, add water when you turn to speed up the process.



Greens

Things that are wet and alive

- Fruit and Veggie Scraps
- Coffee Grounds
- Grass Clippings
- Plants
- Agricultural Manures

Balance your greens and browns by adding about equal volumes every time.

Cover the green materials with the brown material to prevent wildlife from being attracted to the pile

Browns

Things that dry and dead

- Fall Leaves
- Cardboard and Paper
- Sawdust and wood shavings
- Straw

Water

- Optimum moisture content is the moisture of a wrung out sponge

Air

- ensure the pile has access to air
- Incorporate air by turning the pile occasionally

5. Harvest your compost

- a. When the Compost looks and smells like soil you have finished compost.
 - i. If you would like a really fine compost with no chunks you can sift the Compost through a milk crate or other item with smaller holes.