

Composting



1. **Collect Materials** - Compost is made up of “Brown” and “Green” waste materials. Brown materials (left) are “dry” and high in carbon. Green materials (right) are “wet” and full of nitrogen.

Dry leaves, hay, sawdust, straw, wood chips, wood prunings, wood ashes, tea bags, coffee grounds, bark, paper towels and bags, shredded cardboard, corn stalks, leaves, newspapers, peanut shells, peat moss, pine needles, sawdust, stems and twigs, vegetable stalks

Grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, crushed eggshells, manure from cows, horses, goats, poultry and rabbits. Alfalfa, algae, clover, old plants, hedge clippings, fruit peels and cores, seaweed, uncooked vegetables and weeds that haven't gone to seed.

2. **Chop Materials** – Shredding or chopping up your materials in little pieces speeds up the whole process. Cut material into pieces no bigger than $\frac{3}{4}$ ” – 2”.

3. **Build Pile** (Start from the bottom.)

Continue to layer in this manner until your bin is full with a brown layer on top.

Cover again with a 1” layer of B.O.S.S. Add some Compost Starter and mist with water.

Add a 3” to 5” layer of Green Material

Next, add a small 1” layer of Colorado’s Choice B.O.S.S. or other garden soil. Next, add a few handfuls of Espoma Compost Starter. Compost Starter contains microbes, pH balancers and energy sources to help your compost material decompose faster. Sprinkle everything lightly with water but don’t soak it.

Start with a 3” to 5” layer of Brown Material.



3. **Turn the Pile** – Let the pile sit and heat up for 10 days to two weeks. Then turn the pile so everything gets oxygen. With a static bin or freestanding pile, take a pitchfork and move the material on the inside outwards and vice versa. With a tumbler just crank it around a few times. Water lightly if you see the pile drying out. The pile should be as moist as a wrung out sponge. When the compost is dark and crumbly with a pleasant earthy aroma, it’s ready to use!

Henderson, Bunny Digging It, 2009

Western Garden Book, 2001

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