



WHAT TO PUT AND NOT PUT IN A WORM BIN

Put the following in a worm bin:

- Shredded paper products
- Fruit and vegetable trimmings
- Egg shells
- Fallen leaves
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Lawn clippings and young weeds



Do not place the following in a worm bin:

- Meat products
- Dairy products
- Rocks
- Plastics
- Glass
- Metal products (e.g., aluminum cans)
- Bread products



A Guide to Composting



THE PEGGY NOTEBAERT
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USE GREENS

- Fruit and vegetable trimmings
- Eggshells
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds
- Other plant matter



Cut out them fold accordion style at dashes

USE BROWNS

- Dead leaves
- Untreated sawdust
- Newspaper
- Coffee filters



DO NOT USE

- Meat, bones, and dairy
- Grease and oil
- Grains and bread
- Pet waste
- Plywood
- Diseased or chemically treated plants



QUICK TIPS

- Smaller pieces breakdown faster
- Piles should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge
- Layer brown on top of green
- Turn piles frequently
- Choose a sunny spot for your compost.
- A smelly pile is an unhealthy pile

What is composting?

Compost is a dark nutrient rich soil product that can be produced in three different ways. The three different methods of composting are *active composting*, *passive composting*, and *vermicomposting*.

Active composting is turned frequently and the compost is ready in 4 to 8 weeks.

Passive composting is less labor intensive than active composting, and is ready in 6 to 18 months.

Vermicomposting uses worms called red wigglers which have compost ready in 3 to 4 months and should be kept indoors.

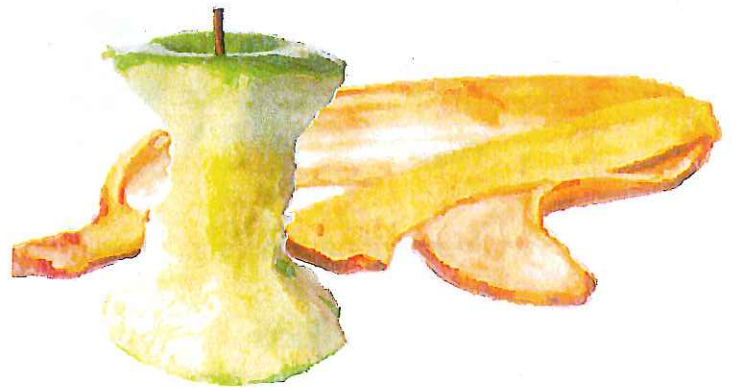
How do you compost?

The key to a healthy compost pile is the balance of carbon-containing materials (browns) and nitrogen-containing materials (greens), and always covering greens with browns. This balance will keep the moisture at a good level to prevent mold and promote quick decomposition. A well tended compost pile or bin should not smell or attract unwanted pests.

Moisture and temperature are important factors to help the compost decompose quickly. The pile should be slightly damp and warm to the touch for optimum decomposition. Monitor the conditions in the piles or bins closely to prevent future problems.

Why should you compost?

- Composting keeps organic matter out of landfills.
- Compost improves soil health and plant growth.
- Compost increases the ability of soil to retain water, thus reducing water bills and potential runoff.
- Compost mimics the ideal natural system of recycling organic nutrients.



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