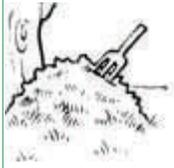


Construct your own compost bin!

Ideally, the compost pile should be at least 3 ft. wide by 3 ft. deep by 3 ft. tall (1 cubic yard). This size provides enough food and insulation to keep your compost critters warm, happy, and working hard. Of course, you can make your compost however you want!



Compost heap



Four wooden pallets on end, wired together.



Wire fencing—approx. 10 linear ft. for a 3 ft. diameter



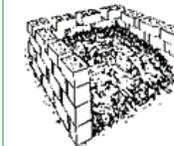
Wooden box with air holes



Slatted multi-bin.



Garbage can with air holes



Straw bales

RECIPE FOR COMPOST

Nitrogen: green material such as grass clippings and food scraps are ideal sources of nitrogen.

Carbon: brown material such as dry leaves or hay can provide the carbon balance for a compost pile.

Water: a moisture content of 40% to 60% is preferable—about as moist as a wrung-out sponge. During dry weather, add water. During wet weather, cover your pile.

Air: the bacteria and fungus in your compost need oxygen to live just like we do. If your pile is too dense, the air supply is cut off and the beneficial organisms die off.

Compost

Critters:

insects, worms, and other microorganisms help break down raw materials into compost faster and are very beneficial to plant growth.



COMPOSTING



SISKIYOU COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

190 GREENHORN ROAD

YREKA, CA 96097

PHONE: (530) 842-8272

FAX: (530) 841-2800

MON—FRI

8:00 AM—5:00 PM

WWW.CO.SISKIYOU.CA.US

COMPOSTING AT HOME

What is composting?

Composting is natural recycling of organic materials such as lawn clippings, leaves, vegetable scraps, and other wastes into a rich soil amendment.

Why compost?

Reduce your garbage disposal costs by turning your food scraps into fertilizer. Your garden and landscaping plants will benefit from the nutrients in the soil amendment you can create at home.

How do I compost?

- Create a pile of organic material which will break down over time.
- Turn the pile with a shovel or pitchfork about every other week to speed up the breakdown of materials.
- Finished compost settles towards the bottom of the pile and resembles a dark, rich soil.
- Separate your compost from the rest of the coarse material and apply it to your garden.

What can I compost?

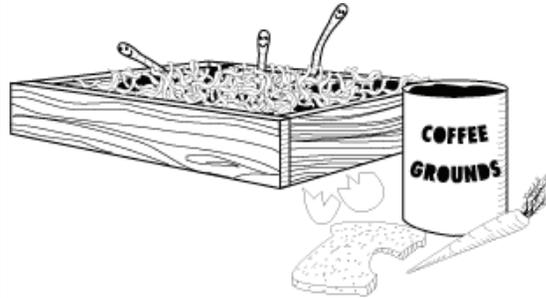
You need a 50/50 mix of both **green** and **brown** materials in your compost bin.

Green materials contain lots of nitrogen. They break down quickly and help to keep the compost moist.

Brown materials contain lots of carbon. They break down more slowly and create air pockets which helps circulation.

GREEN:

- Grass clippings
- Fruit scraps
- Vegetable peelings
- Cut flowers
- Tea leaves
- Coffee grounds
- Chicken or rabbit manure



BROWN:

- Leaves
- Stale bread, rice, or pasta
- Cardboard
- Egg shells and cartons
- Straw and hay
- Newspaper and paper towels
- Wood chips and sawdust

DO NOT USE:

- Plastic
- Metal
- Cooked food
- Meat or bones
- Dairy products (milk or cheese)
- Cat or dog feces
- Invasive or diseased plants

Where should I put my compost pile?

- Put your compost in an area that is accessible all year round. This will make it easy for you to add new materials.
- Ideally, your compost should be placed on the ground (either bare soil or grass), not on concrete or tarmac. Worms and other creatures will help break down your waste faster.
- Shaded areas with some sun are good locations, but try to keep your pile out of excessive sunlight in a place sheltered from the wind.
- A nearby water source is useful for keeping your pile moist. Water your compost after adding a new layer.

Troubleshooting

The compost pile has a bad odor!

Possible causes: Probably not enough air, too compacted or excessive moisture.

Solution: Add dry material like leaves or wood chips and turn the pile.

Animals get into my compost pile!

Possible causes: Rotting food wastes attract pests.

Solution: Dig a hole and bury new food wastes deeper in the pile. Turn the pile more often.

Remember:

Composting is a recipe, experiment with your pile and find out what works for you!