

What you'll need

- A large container for outdoor composting
- A small bin or container for indoor composting
- Brown Material
- Green Material



How to get started

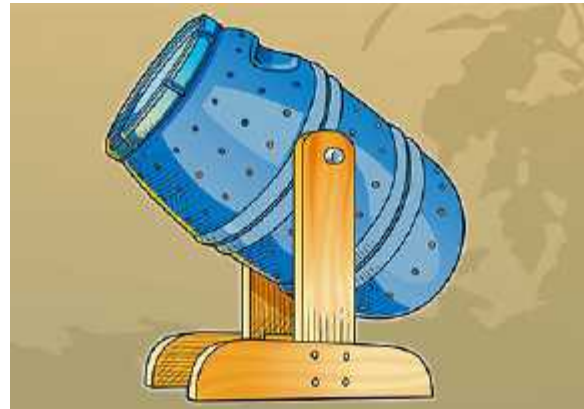
- Place your composting bin in a sunny, well-drained area
- Start with a layer of coarse material such as straw and twigs
- In your container layer brown and green material
- Keep some brown material around to cover kitchen scraps and green material
- Lightly water the pile if necessary, compost should be damp, not soaking
- Cover the compost
- Mix the contents of your compost every week or two, this will help if the pile is too wet, too compacted, or has an odour
- The centre of the pile will be hot when decomposing and after a few months, your compost should be ready to use



Contact info and inquiries

Feel free to contact EOS if you have any questions. We also have additional resources that can be shared if you're looking for more composting information.

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Sources:
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<http://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca-city-services/environment-and-conservation/your-yard/Backyard-Composting-Brochure.pdf>
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Composting at Home

Composting at home is a great way to reduce waste, help your garden grow, and reduce greenhouse gasses.



Composting can benefit you, your garden, and the earth by reducing material in waste-management systems and landfills.

It's not difficult and only takes a little time to establish a composting system that works for you.

This brochure provides some information and tips on how to get started.



What can be composted?

Layer green and brown material in alternating layers to balance the nitrogen and carbon in your compost

Greens:

- Vegetable Peelings
- Rotten Fruit and Peels
- Leaves
- Tea and Coffee Grounds
- Grass, Flower and Yard Clippings
- Crushed Egg Shells
- Food scraps

Browns:

- Twigs
- Egg Cartons
- Cardboard
- Wood Chips
- Straw
- Sawdust
- Shredded Paper



What can't be composted?

- Meat
- Fish
- Dairy
- Fatty foods
- Oils
- Plastics
- Glass
- Animal or human waste
- Treated wood
- Diseased plants

Why compost?

- Composting is a great way to enhance your soil using waste from your home.
- Up to one third of household waste is organic and can be diverted from the trash.
- Composting reduces or eliminates need for fertilizer.
- Composted soil retains water, saving you water and reducing runoff.
- Composting reduces organic home and lawn waste that would otherwise be in a landfill.
- Compost is nutrient rich and will improve soil, helping your garden grow.



What about worms?

Red Wigglers, or composting worms, can be used to help break down food scraps and organic material in a process called vermicomposting. Worms need moisture, air, food and darkness. Worms are well suited for compost piles or small kitchen compost bins.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I compost in the winter?

Yes, the decomposition process stops when the pile freezes, but will begin again when temperatures rise. You can continue to add material throughout the winter.

Does organic material need to be shredded?

It can be. The smaller the pieces are, the faster they will decompose.

Can I put weeds in my compost?

Weeds that have gone to seed or spread by runners may survive the compost and later take root in your garden. Unless they haven't gone to seed or they're completely dried out, it's probably best to avoid composting weeds.

Will it smell?

Your composting pile shouldn't smell bad. If it does, make sure there isn't too much green material, that it's not too wet and aerate it by turning it and poking holes.

Will it attract animals and bugs?

Covering kitchen scraps with brown material and ensuring that a secure lid is attached will keep animals and pests away from the pile.

When can my compost be used?

After several months you'll be able to use your compost. Finished compost will be found at the bottom of the pile, it will look and feel like top soil and the original composting material should be unrecognizable.

How do I use finished compost?

Rake a thin layer over your grass or ground cover for a healthy lawn. Spread it around shrubs, trees and perennials. Dig it into the soil in your vegetable beds before you plant.