FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING: Do-It-Yourself

BUILD OR BUY A BIN (OR TWO!)

Search online for "DIY compost bins" if you want to build your own, or purchase bins at Resource Recovery. See "Buying Compost or a Compost Bin" on the back for more information.

WHAT GOES IN MY BIN?

Browns (3 parts)
Leaves • Twigs • Dead flowers • Straw
Corn stalks & husks • Shredded cardboard & paper
Paper towels & napkins • Vacuum cleaner bag contents
Dryer lint • Untreated wood chips & sawdust

Greens (1 part)
Vegetable & fruit peels, cores, rinds, scraps
Spoiled vegetables & fruit • Eggshells
Coffee grounds, filters & tea bags • Grass clippings
Fresh plant & yard trimmings

Do NOT Compost
Meats, fish & poultry • Bones • Dairy products
Egg whites & yolks • Fats, oil & grease • Pet waste
Weeds laden with seeds • Diseased plants

USING YOUR BIN
• Use an airtight scrap pail on your counter or keep a scrap container or bag in the fridge or freezer.
• Chop up larger scraps into smaller pieces.
• Keep a 3:1 ratio of browns to greens.
• Your pile should feel like a wrung-out sponge. If it is dry, add a little water. If it is wet, add some browns.
• Your pile needs oxygen. Use a garden tool, like a hoe or a pitchfork, to stir up contents weekly.

USING COMPOST
• Curing: Compost with no recognizable scraps needs to sit for about 4 weeks before it is at ambient temperature, and ready to use. One way to ensure compost is cured is to apply it 4 weeks before planting.
• New beds: Till 1-3" into top 12" of dark soil or 2-6" into light soil.
• Maintenance: Once fully cured, place on areas that you have already planted.
• Basic potting mix = 1/3 compost +1/3 sand + 1/3 soil

HARVESTING COMPOST
One bin: Use a screen built with 2x4s and wire mesh to separate recognizable scraps from compost. Add scraps back into bin.

Two bins: Stop adding materials to bin #1. Start using bin #2. Continue to stir up contents of bin #1 until all scraps break down.

Buying Compost or a Compost Bin
Compost approved for use in organic growing is available by the cubic yard or in 40 lb bags at RIRRC. Check rirrc.org for current pricing, accepted payments and our operating hours.

Resource Recovery | 401-942-1430 | www.rirrc.org
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