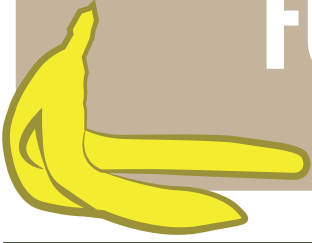
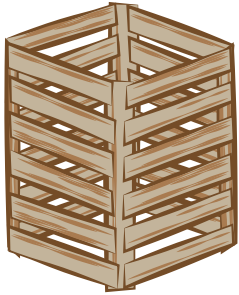


# FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING: Do-It-Yourself



## 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

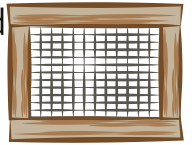


## USING YOUR BIN

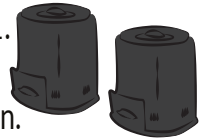
- Use an airtight scrap pail on your counter or keep a scrap container or bag in the fridge or freezer.
- Chop up larger scraps into smaller pieces.
- Keep a 3:1 ratio of browns to greens.
- Your pile should feel like a wrung-out sponge. If it is dry, add a little water. If it is wet, add some browns.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

## 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.



## 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

### 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 [rirc.org](http://rirc.org) for current pricing, accepted payments and our operating hours.