

Compost Trouble Shooting

Symptoms	Cause	Solution
The compost has bad odor	Not enough air or too much nitrogen	Turn it and add "brown" materials
The center of the pile is dry	Not enough water	Moisten materials while turning the pile
The compost is damp and warm	Pile is too small	Add materials and mix only the middle of pile
The pile will not heat up	Lack of nitrogen	Turn it and add "green" materials



What to do with Compost

Plant seeds, plants or flowers.

Fill your decorative flower pots with it.

Spread on flower beds and gardens.

Use it around the base of trees and shrubs.

Spread it on your landscaping.

Compost tea can be used on indoor plants.

Give some to a neighbor or friend.

More Information

Building a Compost Bin

www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/composting/pubs/build-bin.pdf

Buying a Compost Bin

Go to www.google.com or any other search engine, and enter the question, 'What kind of compost bin should I buy?' You'll get a variety of good suggestions.

A Video How-to on Composting

vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T01343&video=220148

Metro Solid Waste Management Services

600 Meriwether Ave

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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

SUSTAIN *Louisville*

Composting

It's only natural



Did you know...

- More than 60% of what goes to landfills is organic waste.
- Each year the average US household generates 650 pounds of compostable materials.
- Grass clippings can generate up to 25% of your lawn's fertilizer when left on lawn.



Four Reasons to Compost

1. Good for the environment

Yard and food waste make up 30% of the total waste stream. Composting saves landfill space and greatly reduces methane emissions caused by the breakdown of these materials.

2. Benefits for your yard

Compost improves moisture retention and drainage of soil, provides a slow release of nutrients and amends both sandy and clay soils. Healthy plants and healthy soil reduce pests and diseases.

3. Saves money

Composting reduces the cost of soil conditioner, manure, pesticides and water soil that plants need. It cuts down on costs associated with trash hauling, for you and your municipality.

4. It's easy

Composting is the most practical and convenient way to handle your yard waste, and is typically easier than bagging waste and transporting it to the curb or a waste facility. Start with leaves and grass and work your way toward food scraps.

Getting Started

Decide on a location

Choose a spot that can be easily reached, that is dry, shady or partly shady and preferably is out of sight.

Decide on a bin or pile

To compost yard waste, piles are an easy and inexpensive option. When starting to incorporate food scraps it is best to use a bin, either built or purchased. This will help in preventing rodents.

Choose a design

A simple 3'x3'x3' size pile is ample to get started. It can be incased with wire, mesh and/or wood. There also are bins that can be built with various chambers that are round, or that are made out of barrels. For bins that can be purchased, choices range from tumblers to vermicompostors to in-home automatic composters.

Start adding

Add three parts brown materials to one part green materials. Each time you add to the pile, make sure you turn it over or aerate it.

Your compost is ready to use

Once the material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, with no remnants of food or yard waste, it is ready to use.

What to Add

“Green” Materials which provide nitrogen

Raw or cooked fruits and vegetables

Chicken, rabbit, cow

and horse manure

Coffee grounds and filters

Grass clippings

Paper tea bags

Bread and grains

Hair and fur



“Brown” Materials which provide carbon

Leaves

Yard trimmings

Sawdust

Clean paper

Egg shells

Hay and Straw

Cardboard rolls

Fireplace ash



What not to add

Dairy Products

Oils and Fats

Meat and Fish, including bones

Pet manure and cat litter

Coal or charcoal ash

All containers-plastic, glass, aluminum, tin

Invasive weeds