

What to Compost

Yes	Maybe	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fruit ◆ Vegetables ◆ Bread ◆ Grains ◆ Pasta ◆ Cereal ◆ Beans ◆ Nuts & seeds ◆ Citrus rinds (cut up to help decompose more quickly) ◆ Corn cobs (break in quarters to help decompose more quickly) ◆ Nutshells ◆ Coffee grounds & filters ◆ Tea bags <li style="text-align: center;">◆◆◆◆◆ ◆ Paper towels & napkins ◆ Tissues ◆ Paper plates ◆ Paper bags ◆ Food-soiled paper or cardboard ◆ Other paper products <li style="text-align: center;">◆◆◆◆◆ ◆ Bouquets and dried flowers ◆ Houseplants ◆ Potting soil ◆ Fireplace wood ash (in small quantities) <li style="text-align: center;">◆◆◆◆◆ ◆ Leaves ◆ Grass clippings ◆ Plants ◆ Weeds that have not gone to seed ◆ Straw/hay ◆ Other yard debris 	<p><i>These items are more likely to attract rodents and other creatures.</i></p> <p><i>They will compost fine, it is up to the user to decide if they want to include them:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Peanut butter ◆ Dairy products (cheese, butter, milk, eggs) ◆ Foods with sauces or butter ◆ Oil <p style="text-align: center;">◆◆◆◆◆</p> <p><i>These items can be composted at home but will take longer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Oak leaves ◆ Pine needles ◆ Twigs and branches ◆ Pruning and hedge trimmings ◆ Woodchips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Meat ◆ Bones ◆ Fat or grease from animal products ◆ Dog and cat waste ◆ Weeds gone to seed ◆ Weeds spread by roots and runners ◆ Diseased plants ◆ Charcoal ash

How to Succeed with your Compost Bin

Moisture

Materials inside this compost bin need to stay moist (like a wrung out sponge).

- ◆ You may need to periodically water the materials with a hose, especially around the outer edges.
- ◆ Some users remove the lid when it rains, others drill large holes in the sunken area of the lid to let in water when it rains.

Turning

Materials in this bin must be turned with a pitchfork periodically to let in oxygen. Otherwise the materials will begin to rot and smell bad. The more frequently the pile is turned, the sooner it will turn into compost.

To use the compost bin for kitchen scraps

To work well, the compost bin must have the proper combination of “*brown*” (carbon) and “*green*” (nitrogen) materials.

- ◆ *Brown* consists of materials such as leaves, dried grass, wood chips, etc.
- ◆ *Green* consists of materials such as fresh grass, vegetable scraps, etc.
- ◆ Begin by filling bin 2/3 full with leaves.
- ◆ Earth worms are wonderful for compost bins, add them as you find them in your garden.

To add kitchen scraps:

- ◆ Keep a pitchfork beside the bin and gently toss the top layer every time you add new kitchen scraps.
- ◆ Periodically (once a month or so) turn the entire contents of the bin with a pitchfork or compost turning tool to fully aerate.
- ◆ Add water if necessary to keep contents moist
- ◆ Add more leaves as available.

Good Luck. Please let us know how well the compost bin works for you, or if you have any problems.