



For more information, contact Cascadia Conservation District:

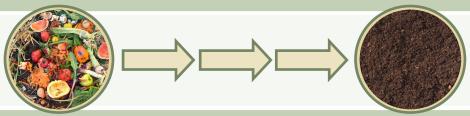
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# COMPACT COMPOSTING

### A Guide to Small Batch Composting

#### WHAT IS COMPOST?

A nutrient-rich soil that is made from recycling unwanted organic material

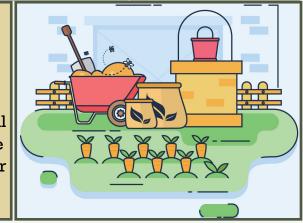


#### WHY COMPOST?



Americans produced 250 million tons of trash in 2016. About half of that waste was compostable!

Use this guide to learn how you can use composting to save resources, reduce environmental impacts, and increase the soil quality of your own home garden!



## HOW TO COMPOST

Start with a container, like a plastic bin or five-gallon bucket. Larger wooden bins can be used outdoors.

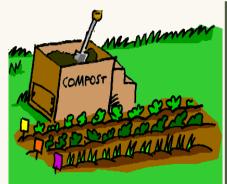




Start adding to your pile:

- Manure, grass clippings, and food wastes
- Nitrogen sources help activate the compost pile
- Layer and mix materials
- Keep compost moist, but not soaked
- Cover to prevent loss of moisture
- Turn your pile every week
- The warmer the pile the better (55°+)





Finished compost looks and feels like dark soil and can take a few months to finish.

Once it's done, add it to veggie and flower beds, lawns, trees, and shrubs.

# **COMPOSTING TIPS**

Carbon rich materials, also known as "browns" and nitrogen rich material, also known as "greens" should have a ratio of 25:1 Carbon: Nitrogen

### CARBON

- Cardboard
- Dry Leaves
- Sawdust
- Newspaper
- Paper Towels
- Ash
- Dry Grass
- Shredded Paper
- Dry Lint
- Pine Needles

### **NITROGEN**

- Vegetable Trimmings
- Fruit scraps
- Coffee Grounds and Filters
- Livestock Manure
- Yard Waste
- Stale Bread
- Fresh Grass

### WHAT SHOULDN'T GO IN A COMPOST PILE?

Meat, fat, grease, dairy, bones, animal feces or litter, weeds with seeds, diseased plants or anything chemically treated.