Compact Composting

A guide to small batch composting

Did you know?
Americans produced 250 million tons of trash last year? About half of that was compostable!

Composting:
- Saves money
- Saves resources
- Improves soil
- Reduces environmental impact
- Fertilizes
- Increases soil stability
- Improves drainage
- Helps retain moisture

Resources

Have questions or want to be notified about urban ag workshops?

Contact Cascadia Conservation District! Contact Sandy Letzing at sandyl@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

From Garbage to Garden
It's Compost Time!

KEEP CALM AND COMPOST ON

Brown Leaves
Kitchen Waste
Grass Clippings
Brown Leaves
Green Leaves
Woodchips

Cascadia Conservation District
Your local natural resource partner since 1948.

14 N Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 436-1601 - www.cascadiacd.org
How To Compost

Container:
- **Indoors**: Plastic storage bins, Five-Gallon buckets,
- **Outside**: Materials like bricks, buckets, wood, and chicken wire are commonly used to build bins. A rotating series of bins, allow the compost to be turned on a regular basis, thus speeding up the process.

Materials:
- Layer - alternating moist and dry. See list on next page.
- If your pile is outside, add manure, green manure (grass clippings) or any nitrogen source. This activates the compost pile and speeds the process along.

Process:
- Keep compost moist (like a sponge), but not soaked.
- Cover with wood, plastic sheeting, or carpet scraps. Covering helps retain moisture and heat and prevents over-watering by rain.
- Turn every few weeks with a pitchfork or shovel or if it’s a small container flip it over a few times. This aerates the pile—Oxygen is required for the process to work.
- Compost generally takes a couple months per batch.
- Finished compost looks and feels like dark soil.

Spread!
- In your veggie and flower beds, lawn, trees, shrubs

Composting Tips

Carbon rich materials also known as “browns” and nitrogen rich material also known as “greens” should have a ratio of 2.5:1 C:N

**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, diary, bones, animal feces, weed with seeds, diseased plants, ice plant, cacti, palms, invasive root systems.