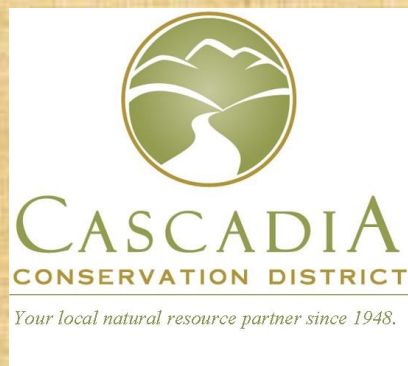
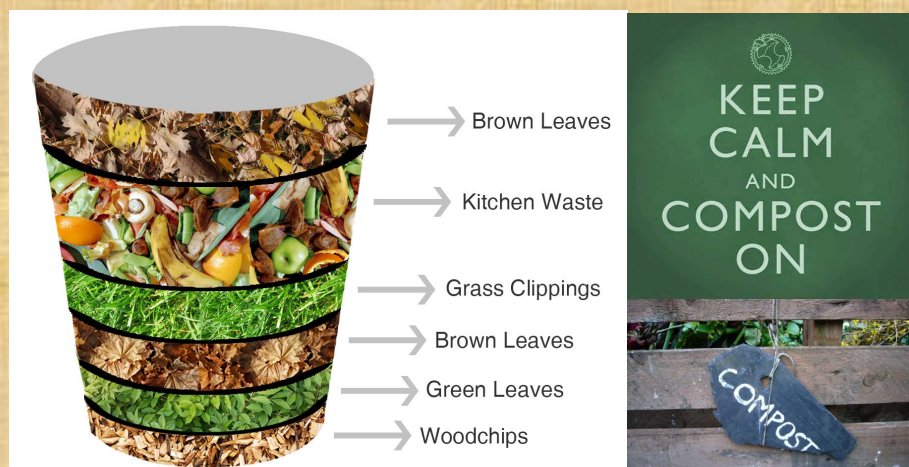


## Resources

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



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



14 N Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 436-1601 - [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

# 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



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