

Composting Guide – Help reduce waste flowing into our waters!

The main needs for composting are oxygen, carbon, and materials that can decompose. Make sure your bin has holes for oxygen to enter to aerate your mixture. The materials need to be mixed every couple of weeks to aerate the pile and have a ready fertilizer in 3-4 months. Winter will slow this process down. Use a shovel or pitchfork to dig a hole on the top then dump your scraps or waste in the hole. Cover the hole with the materials you dug out and add a nitrogen source on top to reduce the odor. Once your naturally made fertilizer is ready, spread it on your lawn or garden to supplement plant growth.

This guide will break down the different items needed for carbon and nitrogen to create a working compost pile. Make sure you have an even ratio of nitrogen and carbon materials.

Tip: The bottom of the pile should have at least 6-8 inches of carbon rich materials to absorb moisture and keep things aerated. Start with dry leaves, woody plant debris, wood chips, or saw dust. Check out this link for any troubleshooting needs: <https://bit.ly/3nbCRcl>

Nitrogen

- Grass clippings
- Leafy plant trimmings
- Spent flowers
- Foliage from weeds
- Coffee grounds/used filters
- Eggshells (grind them up first)
- Fruit rinds
- Vegetable scraps
- Tea leaves
- Nut shells
- Peat moss
- Old spices
- Hay/straw

Carbon

- Dry leaves
- Woody plant trimmings
- Pine needles
- Shredded paper
- Shredded newspaper
- Sawdust
- Tree bark
- Shredded/cut up cardboard
- Shellfish shells
- Lint (100% cotton)
- Pet fur
- Used matches
- Wood ash
- Wood chips

Do NOT Compost:

- Meat, fish, poultry scraps
- Dairy products
- Fats, grease, lard, or oils
- Coal/charcoal ash
- Diseased/insect-ridden plants
- Pet wastes
- Yard wastes treated with pesticides
- Onions
- Citrus peels

How to Build a Pallet Compost Bin

Materials:

- 4 Repurposed pallets of similar width
- Pack of zip ties (at least 14" long)
- A helper (optional)



Step 1:

To connect the pallets, you will need three zip ties for every connected corner. Set aside 9 zip ties total.

Step 2:

Stand up your pallets and create a 90-degree angle with two of them. Join the two pallets together using the zip ties. Use three zip ties, one placed at the bottom, the middle, and the top of the pallet. Add another pallet and repeat.



Step 3:

Add one more pallet but leave one corner unsecured. This will act as a door so that you can easily reach your pile. It doesn't matter which side you fasten; you can customize it to your handedness.



Step 4:

Add leaves, grass clippings, and yard waste to the bin. You can also add a variety of table scraps. See the guide for a list of items that you can and can't put in your new compost bin!

This DIY project and pictures came from <https://bit.ly/3k7vvFq>