



# COMPOSTING GUIDE





# STEP 1: PREPARATION OF MATERIAL

## YOU WILL NEED



Composting  
Container



**BROWNS**  
Coco Peat/Dry  
Leaves/Saw dust/  
Microbes or specific  
products for specific  
containers



**GREENS**  
Kitchen waste



Shovel, Pitch fork

# STEP 2: SHREDDING

**TO SPEED UP THE COMPOST PROCESS SHRED ALL THE ITEMS USED INCLUDING:**



**Dry Leaves**



**Cardboard**



**Kitchen waste**

# STEP 3: LAYERING

Layer the bottom with browns, add a layer of greens daily , cover with browns daily



Use the Browns to Green in the ratio of 2:1



# STEP 4: MIXING AND TURNING

Every day post day 2/3 mix your compost by using a pitchfork or rotate the tumbler



This allows oxygen to enter the pile through the air and speeds the process.



# STEP 5: FILLING & CURING

The process of layering your container should continue for 30 days till its full. You continue to mix and rotate every day. Sometimes 2/3 times a day too.



Your container should be full now and can be left for curing for 30 days. In this period you don't stir the pile. If you are using a tumbler you can rotate it once in a while.



# STEP 6: SIEVE & USE

Sieve the cured Compost. This is an excellent starter for using in your brown layering for the future. It is ready to be used in your garden or pots now.



When you left this container for curing, start filling another container in the same manner. When this pile of compost is ready, container 2 will be ready to be left for curing. Hence the cycle will continue.



# WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED?

**Carbon-rich matter: gives compost its light, fluffy body**

**Branches, Stems, Dried Leaves, Peels, Sawdust, Shredded Brown Paper Bags, Corn Stalks, Coffee Filters, Coffee Grounds, Egg Shells, Straw, Wood Ash, Paper**

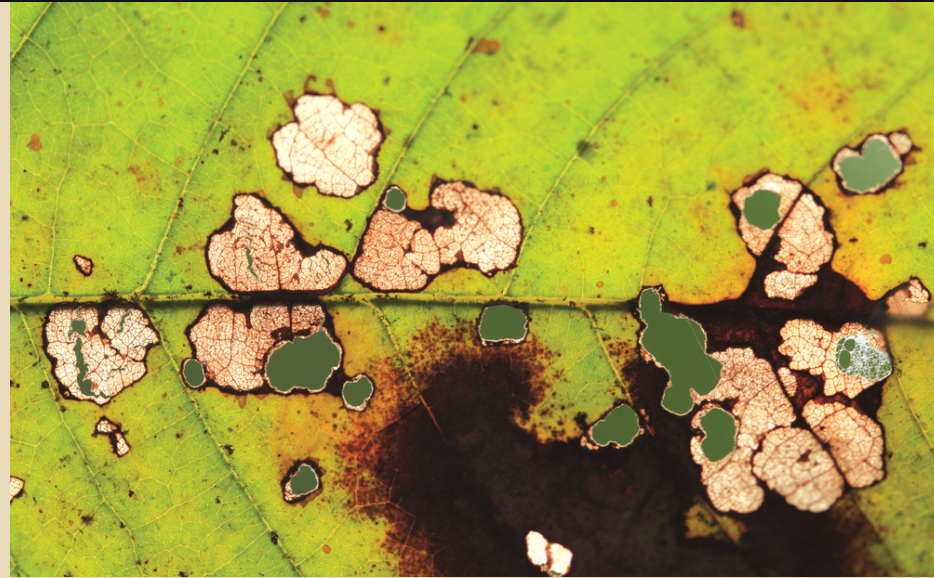


**Nitrogen or protein-rich matter: provides raw materials for making enzymes**

**Manures, Food Scraps, Green Lawn Clippings, Kitchen Waste, Green Leaves**



# WHAT CAN'T BE COMPOSTED?



- Meat, bones, or fish scraps
- Perennial weeds or diseased plants
- Pet manures
- Fresh Orange rinds (dry them and then use)
- Fatty foods, oils, dairy products
- Coloured newspaper, laminated paper,





# WHAT TO DO IF PILE HAS A FOUL SMELL?

**Symptom: The compost has a bad odor.**

**Problems: Not enough air; pile too wet.**

**Solutions: Turn it, mix it or leave it to air; add browns or coarse materials such as straw, coco peat etc..**





# WHAT TO DO IF PILE IS DRY?

**Symptom: The center of the pile is dry.**

**Problems: Not enough water;  
too much woody material.**

**Solutions: Turn; moisten; add fresh green  
wastes; chop coarse wastes**





# WHAT TO IS PILE IS DAMP ONLY IN MIDDLE?

**Symptoms: Compost is damp and warm only in the middle.**

**Problem: Pile too small.**

**Solutions: Get more material; mix old ingredients into a new pile.**





# WHAT TO IS PILE IS DAMP BUT NOT WARM?

**Symptoms:** The pile is damp and sweet smelling, but won't heat up.

**Problem:** Lack of nitrogen.

**Solutions:** Mix in a nitrogen source such as food waste, fresh grass clippings, fresh manure or ammonium sulfate





# WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF PEST/PET PROBLEMS?

**Symptoms: Pest/pet problems – birds, animals, rats, dogs, etc.**

**Problem: Undesirable food wastes.**

**Solutions: Remove any fish, meats, bones or dairy products. Be sure to cover or bury vegetable scraps.**



# SOME USEFUL TIPS



To store kitchen waste until you're ready to transfer it to your composter, keep a container with a lid and a handle under the sink

If you want to speed up the composting process, chop the larger material into smaller pieces





# SOME USEFUL TIPS



Leaves and grass clippings should be sprinkled into the bin with other materials or they will mat together and reduce aeration, which slows the composting process

Adding garden soil to your compost will help to mask any odours, and micro-organisms in the soil will accelerate the composting process





# SOME USEFUL TIPS



Reduce or eliminate odors by following two practices: first, remember to not put bones or meat scraps into the compost; second, cover new additions to the compost pile with dry grass clippings or similar mulch

Small fruit flies are naturally attracted to the compost pile. Discourage them by covering any exposed fruit or vegetable matter







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