



Home Composting Workbook

Start your first pile

General information only.

Check local composting rules.

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Method chooser

Tick what fits your home.

Method	Space	Effort	Speed	Good fit?
Open pile or bin	Yard	Low to medium	Months	☐
Tumbler	Patio or yard	Low	Weeks to months	☐
Worm bin	Indoors	Low	Months	☐
Trench	Garden bed	Low	Months	☐
Community drop-off	None	Very low	Not your pile	☐
My method				
Where it will go				
Start date				

Greens and browns tracker

Aim for about 2 to 3 browns to 1 green by volume.

Week	Greens added	Browns added	Balance OK?
1			☐
2			☐
3			☐
4			☐
5			☐
6			☐
7			☐
8			☐
9			☐
10			☐
11			☐
12			☐

Turning, moisture and how it looks.

[illegible]

Troubleshooting guide

Most problems have a simple fix.

Problem	Likely cause	Fix
Rotten-egg smell	Too wet, not enough air	Add browns and turn
Ammonia smell	Too many greens	Add browns
Not breaking down	Too dry or too many browns	Add water and greens; chop smaller
Fruit flies	Exposed scraps	Bury scraps under browns; close the caddy
Animals digging	Food scraps exposed, or meat or dairy	Use a closed bin; keep those out
Soggy and slimy	Too wet, too many greens	Add browns; cover in rain

Kitchen sign

Cut out and stick near your scrap caddy.

Yes, please	No, thanks
• Fruit and vegetable scraps • Coffee grounds and filters • Eggshells, crushed • Plain paper and cardboard • Plant trimmings	• Meat, fish and bones • Dairy • Oils and grease • Pet waste • Plastic, including most 'compostable' plastic

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