

## WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

Some items should not be placed in your compost, including:



⊗ Meat or bones



⊗ Glossy paper



⊗ Oils or grease



⊗ Dairy



⊗ Pet waste



⊗ Produce stickers



⊗ Compostable bags, cups, containers or “bioplastic”



⊗ Plants treated with pesticides

## HOW TO USE YOUR COMPOST

Once complete, your backyard compost is a great addition to vegetable or flower gardens, houseplant potting soil, flower boxes and container gardens. You can also spread it under trees and shrubs or rake into your grass for a natural nutrient boost.

Share your backyard compost with a neighbour!

## COMPOSTING MYTHS

### Composting is Complicated

It can be as simple as adding equal parts greens and browns to a store-bought bin and turning a few times a year.

### Unwanted Pests

Compost bins that are properly maintained and constructed with a tight-fitting lid should not attract rodents or insects.

### Unpleasant Smell

Compost bins that are properly managed should not have a bad smell.

### Here are some tips:

- Ensure a correct ratio of greens and browns (nitrogen and carbon).
- Smells can be mitigated in a couple of hours by adding more browns.
- Turn regularly to oxygenate and break up clumps. You don't need to turn the whole pile — a few stirs whenever you are adding material helps add oxygen and activate beneficial organisms.

## GET STARTED WITH

# BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Nature's way of recycling nutrients



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## WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR BACKYARD COMPOST

A good compost recipe includes a variety of materials.

### Carbon-rich Material (browns)

- Dry leaves
- Straw
- Shredded paper
- Brown bags
- Shredded cardboard
- Wood chips/shavings
- Small branches/twigs
- Pine needles
- Crushed eggshells
- Egg cartons
- Paper towel
- Toilet paper rolls

### Nitrogen-rich Material (greens)

- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Grass clippings
- Coffee grounds and paper filters
- Plant clippings or flowers
- Hair and fur
- Paper tea bags

Your compost also needs oxygen and water.



## HOW TO GET STARTED

### 1. Choose Your Space

Make sure it's easy to reach year-round and has good drainage and air circulation. It can be in the sun or shade but ensure that it touches the dirt below and there's a water source nearby.

### 2. Prepare Your Materials

Collect your kitchen scraps in a closed container in your kitchen or a bag in your freezer. Collect dry leaves or twigs outside. Try to chop all materials into small pieces; they'll break down faster.

### 3. Add Materials to Your Bin

Aim for a 50/50 mix of browns to greens (or for better results up to 75/25 browns to greens) and layer the materials. Add water to dampen the pile (it should feel like a wrung-out sponge). Sunny locations will need more water.

### 4. Maintain Your Pile

Turn your pile a few times per month to aerate it and speed up the breakdown of materials. Materials will break down more slowly in the winter, but if you keep it active it should not freeze and keep composting.

### 5. Harvest Your Compost!

Your compost should be finished in 3–5 months. You can relocate finished compost to another area to cure for a few weeks or stop adding new materials to your bin. It should look dark, loose, and crumbly. You can screen out large materials like sticks or avocado pits that need more time to break down and put them back in your bin.



To learn more about  
Backyard Composting visit:

[Fredericton.ca/compost](https://fredericton.ca/compost)

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