

Compost Care

Here are some easy fixes for certain situations which might occur, particularly for larger compost piles:

- Use a container with a cover to prevent animals from getting in. A wire mesh around the base can help to prevent pests from digging under the pile. Cover food waste with yard waste to prevent pests.
- If the centre of the pile is damp and warm, but the rest is cold, the pile may be too small. Try to keep your composter as full as possible. Mix new with old, dry with wet, and break up mats and clumps.
- If the pile is damp and sweet smelling but not heating, it may need nitrogen. Add grass clippings or table scraps.
- If the compost pile develops a foul odour, it may not be getting enough air. Loosen up the pile – break up clumps, unblock vents and perhaps add some wood chips to help the pile “breathe.” Turning the pile always helps aeration.
- If the pile does not decrease in size or generate heat, composting may need a boost. If the pile is dry, add water and mix thoroughly. If the pile is wet and muddy, spread it in the sun and add dry material. Remember to save old compost to mix with new material.



Need a Backyard Composter?

City of Orillia residents can purchase composters at the Waste Diversion Site, located at 100 Kitchener Street.

For More Information:

- 📍 Solid Waste Management, 100 Kitchener Street
- ☎ 705-325-3522
- ✉ enviroservices@orillia.ca
- 🌐 orillia.ca/recyclingtips



Backyard Composting



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An important first step to getting started is to place your composter in a sunny area with good drainage. Make sure that the location is convenient and accessible all year round.



Getting Started

- 1 Choose an area with good drainage, loosen soil underneath so earthworms can move up.
- 2 Put down about 4 inches of brown material for good air circulation.
- 3 Add 2-3 inches of green material and spread evenly.
- 4 Cover green material with 4 inches of brown to reduce fruit flies, odours and other pests.
- 5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 until your composter bin is full.
- 6 Keep mixture about as moist as a wrung-out sponge.
- 7 Mix often – the more you mix, the quicker the compost!

Compost Here, Compost There

Composting is a natural process of decay in which soil organisms break down organic material into dark, nutrient-rich soil conditioner called compost or humus. This natural process can be used to transform organic wastes produced in the kitchens and yards of our homes into compost. Composting is an easy way to recycle organic waste and can reduce the amount of household garbage by 30 per cent. It also produces a valuable soil additive that can be used in gardening and landscaping.



How To

There are many different ways to compost at home. You can use a pre-manufactured backyard composter, or there are drum and cone composters. Get creative and build your own homemade composter or a heap! You don't even need a backyard to compost – you can also compost indoors using red wiggler worms (vermicomposting).

What's in the Mix?

All you need is a 50:50 ratio between **brown** and **green** materials, a little patience and just the right amount moisture.

Brown Materials (High in Carbon)

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|  Sawdust and wood chips |  Coffee filters |
|  Shredded newspaper |  Plants and weeds (without ripe seeds) |
|  Leaves (chopped to speed their breakdown) |  Dried bread |

Green Materials (High in Nitrogen)

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|  Egg shells (crushed) |  Coffee grounds |
|  Tea bags |  Fruit and vegetable scraps |
|  Grass clippings | |

Do not include: plastics, metals, pet waste, or pressure treated wood products. Consider composting at the curb: meat, fish and bones, fats and oils, and dairy products.