

COMPOST IN 6 STEPS

1

Intake

In this step, brown and green materials (see "What can go in the compost" for more info) are added to begin composting. A bit of brown should go in for every green item added.



2

Material Preparation

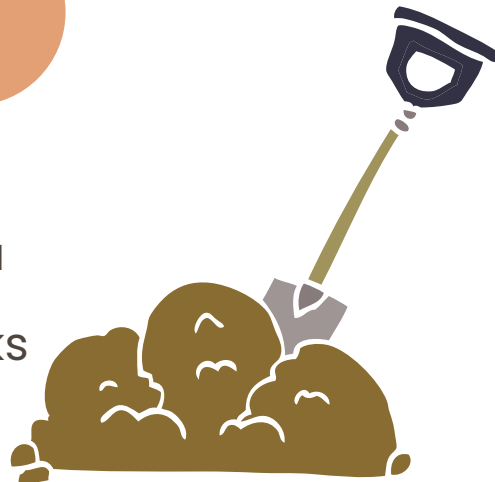
Materials should be cut or chopped up as small as possible to help them break down faster



3

Active Composting

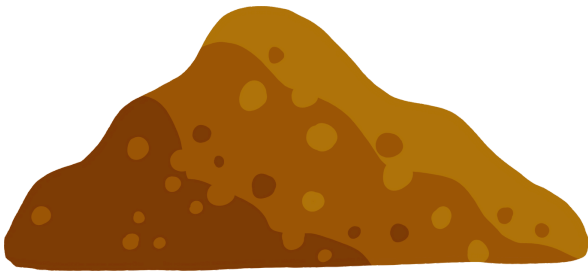
During the warmer months, the compost should be turned with a shovel or pitchfork every 2-4 weeks



COMPOST IN 6 STEPS

Curing

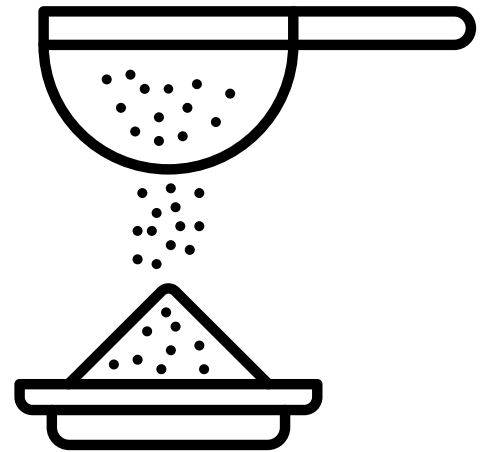
4



After compost looks like soil, it should be removed from the bin and allowed to sit for a month to finish processing

5 Sifting

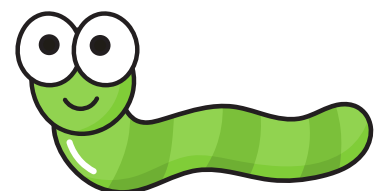
Take the cured compost and filter it through some chicken wire or hardware cloth. Any pieces too big to fit should go back into the bin



Spreading

6

All the fine finished compost can now be spread on your garden and will help feed your plants and improve the soil!





WHAT GOES IN THE COMPOST?

Browns

- Leaves
- Straw
- Brown paper products (Shredded)
- Plant Stalks
- Wood shavings

For every bit of greens, add three times the volume in browns!

Greens

- Vegetable & Fruit scraps
- Flowers
- Grass clippings / green leaves
- Coffee grounds
- Tea Bags
- Egg Shells (crushed)

Avoid Adding

- Oils & Grease
- Dairy (including cheese)
- Meat or Bones
- Pet waste & kitty litter
- Produce Stickers
- "Compostable" utensils
- Bleached, waxed, or glossy papers
- Treated woods
- Seeded weeds/grasses
- Diseased Plants
- Ash or charcoal
- Recyclable materials

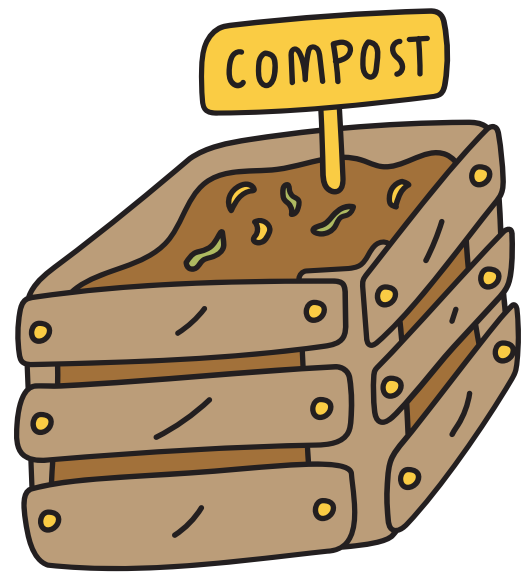




COMPOST BIN DESIGN

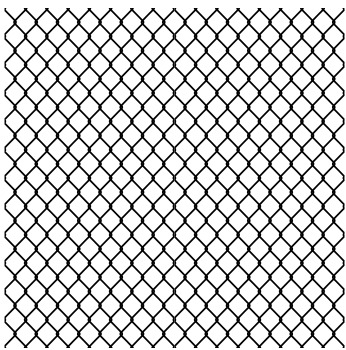
Aeration

An ideal compost system allows for air circulation so microbes can access oxygen. Otherwise, anerobic bacteria will take over and produce methane; an much more potent greenhouse gas. Use a design that leaves gaps for air.



Exclusion

Using hardware cloth with small holes will allow detritivores to access the compost but not critters like racoons or skunks. Install a lid that latches as well to avoid wildlife interest in your bin.



Extraction

Build your bin with the end in mind: You want to use that compost! Have a hatch or door at the bottom to access the compost that has processed the longest. Make the opening large enough for a shovel or pitchfork.

