

HOME COMPOSTING BINS --- NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER

The Town of Sheffield is offering Compost Bins at a subsidized price of \$25 to assist any Sheffield household compost food scraps, garden cuttings, lawn clippings, leaves, etc. One per household, please.



The 216 gallon, expandable Geobin compost bin is easy to assemble, move & reassemble. 50% recycled plastic content; excellent ventilation. Highly rated.

To order a bin, send a check for \$25 made out to: Town of Sheffield, with Compost Bin in the memo line, and send it and this completed form to:

Sheffield Town Hall, 2nd floor
21 Depot Square,
Sheffield, MA 01257

NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

Cell/Phone/ or email address: _____

Geobins are ordered on the 1st of every month with deliveries likely the 2nd week of the month. You will be contacted when your compost bin arrives for pick up at Town Hall.

Funded by a MA Community Compact grant

HOME COMPOSTING EDUCATION

Home Composting Basic Information: centerforecotechnology.org/green-for-homes/recycling-composting/#Composting

Cornell Cooperative Extension: cctetompkins.org/resources/compost-quick-start-guide-to-compost

MassDEP: mass.gov/doc/home-composting-tips-a-guide-to-composting-yard-food-waste/download

*For more information, Google: Home composting videos or home compost bin construction.
Also consider visiting Bushnell-Sage Library for printed materials on composting.*

Quick-Start Guide to COMPOST



What Is COMPOST

In nature, **compostable** organic matter will decompose without our help, with the resulting matter going back into the environment.

Composting is the *managed decomposition* of organic matter:



A. We **build** a healthy place for decomposing organisms to do their job.

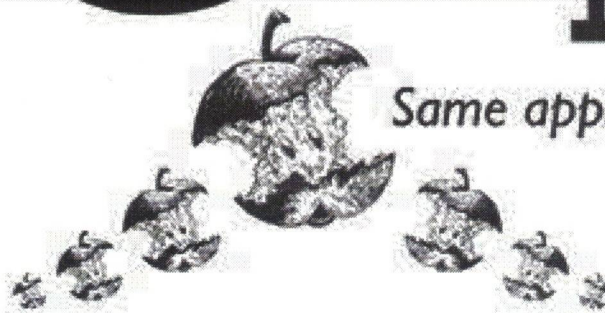
B. We **feed** the bin with nutritious food scraps and garden trimmings (**greens & browns**).

C. We make sure it has enough **water** and **air**.

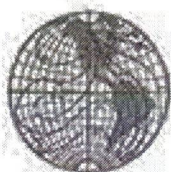
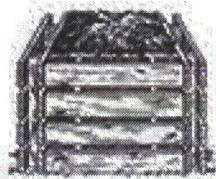
D. We **harvest** the results to enrich our soil.



Why COMPOST



Same apple, **very** different journey.

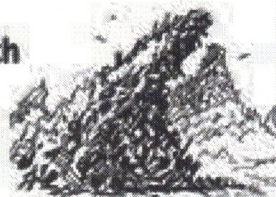


It Saves Money

Compost is a high-quality soil amendment that can be used instead of expensive bagged products.

It's Good for the Earth

Adding compost enriches the soil, helping gardens grow without chemicals.



It Saves Money

About 30% of all our waste is compostable. Your family can save on the cost of trash tags or disposal fees.

It Reduces Carbon Footprint

Less fuel and electricity is used to transport and process waste.

It Reduces Landfill Use

Not only does it alleviate pressure on our infrastructure, it reduces outgassing into the air and leachate seeping into groundwater.

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Tompkins County



LOVE
YOUR
COMPOST!

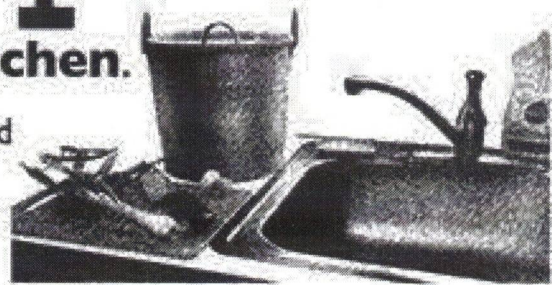
Master Composters of Tompkins County



Where To COMPOST

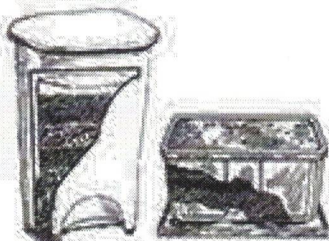
Composting begins in your **kitchen**.

1. Pick a **container** that's the right size to hold the amount of food scraps you produce.
2. Use a tight-fitting **lid** to discourage fruit flies and odors.
3. Line with **newspaper** to absorb moisture and make cleanup easy.

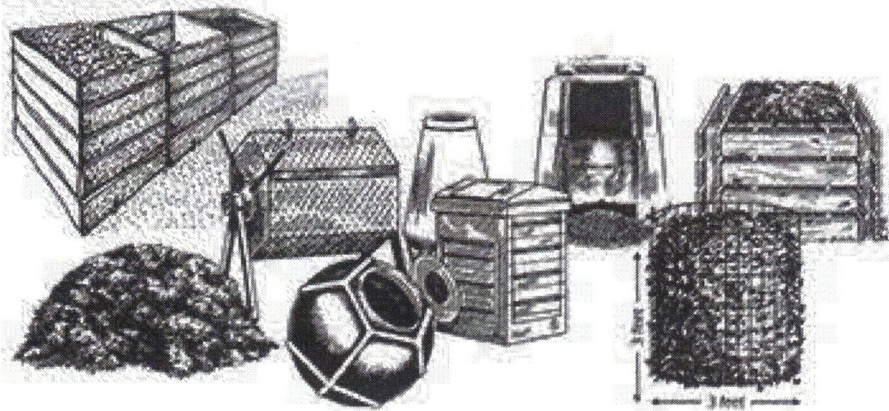


Then, it moves into a **compost bin or pile** of your choice.

Indoors



Outdoors



Amount of Scraps
Set-up Property Size
effort Speed
Cost Maintenance

My Perfect
Compost Bin

Whether you place you bin in the sun or in the shade,* by your back door or on the back forty, the **best place** for a compost bin is where you **will remember to use it best**.

*Sun versus shade placement only impacts moisture level. Sunny bins may dry out, shady bins may get too wet.

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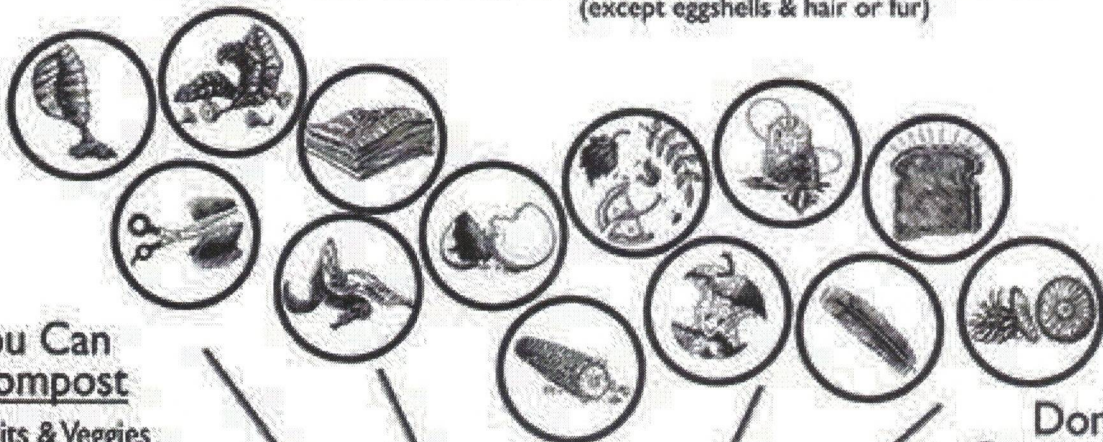


What To COMPOST

Your **home** compost bin is a **strict vegetarian**.

Only include plant or plant-based materials.

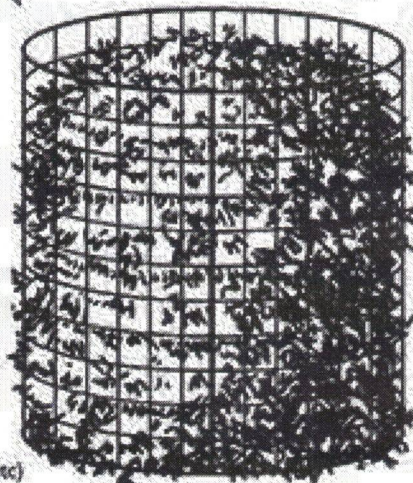
(except eggshells & hair or fur)



You Can Compost

Fruits & Veggies
Bread & Pasta
Tea & Tea Bags
Coffee Grounds & Filters
Newspaper, shredded
Eggshells, crumbled
Napkins & Paper Towels
Uncoated Paper Plates
Yard Waste
Manures*
Dryer Lint
Untreated Sawdust
Hair
Natural Fibers

*Include Manure & Bedding from any herbivore (cows, horses, hamsters, rabbits, etc)



Don't Compost

Meats*
Eggs or Dairy*
Plastic
Cooking Oil or Oily Sauces*
Plastic-coated Paper
Wax-Coated Paper*
Metal
Rocks
Compostable Utensils*
Invasive Weeds
Weed Seeds
Diseased Plants
Diapers
Dog or Cat Waste

*A commercial compost facility can handle these since they compost at very high temps.

Size Size Size Size Size Size Size Size Matters!

Your compost bin breaks down food the same way your body does: The bigger the particle the longer it will take to digest. If your item is larger than a whole apple, chop it up.

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How To COMPOST

A compost bin is actually a **habitat** for compost "D.O.ers" (**Decomposing Organisms**). Layer the right amounts of **air, water, and food**, and they will produce rich compost.

Water **O**xygen **N**itrogen **C**arbon

Balance these inputs for successful compost!

Water **O**xygen

Too much water will make your compost slimy and smelly.

Water **O**xygen

Too much air will dry the bin and bring composting to a halt.

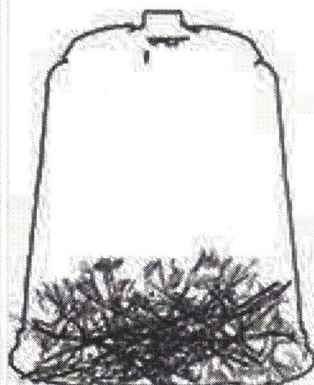
Nitrogen **C**arbon

Too much nitrogen (greens) will make your compost smelly.

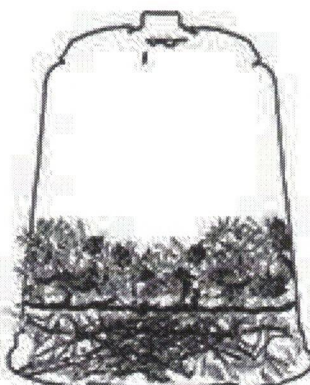
Nitrogen **C**arbon

Too much carbon (browns) will slow composting.

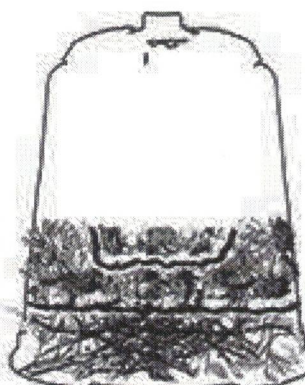
How to Lasagna Layer



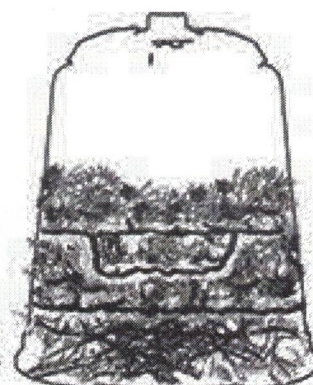
1. Start With Sticks
8" of criss-crossed sticks ensures airflow, just like when building a fire.



2. Add Browns
Add a layer of leaves or other carbon materials - higher on the sides, lower in the middle (bowl-shaped).



3. Add Greens
Add grass clippings, food scraps or other nitrogen materials in a thin layer in the "bowl."



4. Cover the Greens
Add a 1-2" layer of browns - enough to completely cover the greens.

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Using COMPOST

Harvest time!

Is it ready? If you've been turning your compost, check it after 6-8 months. If not, wait a year. Use your senses to find out:

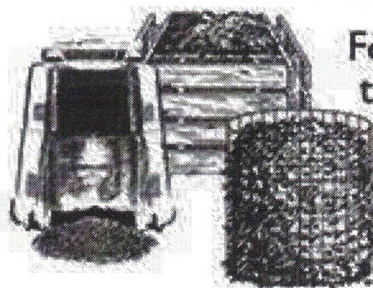
It should look
uniformly dark with
no recognizable food.
(pits & egg shells may persist)



It should smell like
rich soil, nothing more.



It should feel
crumbly and
moist, as if you mixed
damp soil and mulch.



For most bins (except for the tumbler types), the stuff at the bottom will be finished months before the stuff at the top.

← Somewhere around the halfway point you'll start seeing finished compost

Step 1: Lift or disassemble your bin, reassemble it right next your pile, this will be its new home.

Step 2: Place sticks at the bottom of your empty bin for aeration.

Step 3: Shovel the stuff at the top of your pile into your empty bin. Keep any uncomposted food to the middle of the pile. Keep going until you reach finished compost.

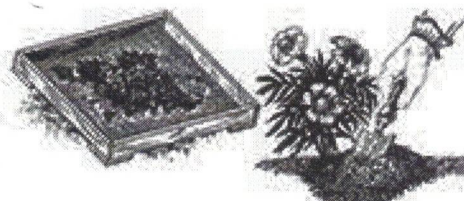
Step 4: Use the finished compost:



As mulch around
trees and plants



Dug in a few inches
from the base of plants



Sifted through a screen and used
in seed starting or potting mixes

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