

Tips for effective backyard composting:

- Have your composter in a level area where there is sufficient water drainage and plenty of sun
- Place the composter into the ground about 5 cm
- Only add unprocessed kitchen scraps
- Cut materials into small pieces to speed up the composting process
- A minimum of half “green”* and half “brown”* material
- Do not add any meat or animal products
- Keep your compost moist, but not soaked
- Aerate your compost
- Your compost is ready when it is dark, crumbly and most of the items are not recognizable (some items like corn cobs and egg shells can be returned to the pile for further composting)

*Brown refers to any plant material that is brown, and includes fall leaves, dried grass, wood products, paper and straw.

*Green refers to fresh grass clippings, freshly picked weeds, plant clippings and most kitchen scraps.

How do I know what to compost?

Please refer to our [list of Yes and No](#) for your composting. Any items not recommended for your backyard composter are accepted in our household waste stream.

Are you Bear Wise Composting?

[Here are some tips to help ensure you are keeping nuisance bears out of your compost.](#)

F.A.Q

Will my compost smell bad?

An earthy scent is normal, balanced compost shouldn't produce unpleasant odours. If it does, your problem is either wet "green" stuff (ammonia smell) or too little air (rotten-egg smell). First, aerate the pile. If the odour persists, turn and rebuild the pile with more "brown" materials.

Will my compost attract animals?

By maintaining a balanced compost without any animal products, your compost should not attract scavenging animals.

Can I compost in the winter?

Yes. Continue to add materials throughout the winter. The decomposition process will slow down, but the pile will become active again in the spring.

Can I compost grass?

If you wish to compost grass, do not add too many grass clippings to your compost at one time. They tend to mat and develop an unpleasant odour. It is suggested that you add them in thin layers, allow them to dry in the sun before adding them, and mix them with dry materials such as leaves.