YOUR GUIDE TO BACKYARD COMPOSTING

cityoforlando.net/composter
WHAT IS COMPOSTING?
Composting is the process of turning kitchen and yard waste into usable, nutrient rich soil through natural decomposition. Inside the composter, organic waste is broken down through a controlled process by micro organisms. By utilizing the correct material, these micro organisms will create a soil product that is incredibly nutrient dense and great for your garden plants.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?
- Diverts food and yard waste from the landfill, leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Creates an enriched soil which can be used in your garden
- Suppresses plant diseases and pests
- Saves you money by reducing the need for chemical fertilizer

COMPOST USE
- Amend your garden soil by working compost into it
- Sprinkle compost on your lawn to foster healthy and robust soil
- Improve the soil around trees and shrubs by spreading compost near the root zone (leave 4” clear around the trunk)

COMPOST LOCATION
- Place the composter on exposed soil in a dry, shady or moderately sunny spot that is near a source of clean water.
- Use the four provided plastic screws to secure the composter to the ground.
- Make sure it’s convenient to get to the composter, as you’ll be taking your food waste out often.

FOOD WASTE PER YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR</th>
<th>PER PERSON PER DAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>474</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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24% of everything in landfills could have been composted or recycled.

cityoforlando.net/composter
3 STEPS FOR COMPOSTING

PREPARATION
• Chop, shred or tear items into smaller pieces. This will help speed up the decomposition process.
• Line your container with newspaper to soak up liquids. When you empty the bin into the composter the newspaper can go along with it.
• Empty the contents of your container into your composter.

MAINTENANCE
• Cover fresh food waste with a layer of leaves, other dry yard trimmings, or soil.
• Add water until your compost is the moisture of a wrung-out sponge.
• Periodically stir the container to aerate the compost and encourage decomposition.

HARVEST
• Compost can be harvested after about 4 to 6 months. You’ll know it’s ready when the soil is a crumbly moist texture and gives off an earthy aroma.
• For small harvesting, use the harvest door at the base of the composter.
• For large harvesting, unscrew the anchoring screws and remove the container. Place any large food scraps back in the composter for the next cycle.

WHAT CAN I COMPOST?

GREEN
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Crushed egg shells
- Coffee grounds
- Filters
- Grass clippings
- House plants

BROWN
- Shredded cardboard
- Shredded black and white newspaper
- Hay
- Straw
- Wood chips
- Shredded cotton & wool rags
- Yard trimmings
- Leaves
- Dryer & vacuum cleaner lint
- Hair
- Fur

“NO” LIST
- Meat
- Bones
- Fats
- Grease
- Lard
- Grains
- Dairy (butter, milk, eggs)
- Diseased plants
- Charcoal ashes
- Toxic materials
- Nonbiodegradable materials
- Cat or dog waste
- Litter

TROUBLESHOOT YOUR PILE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>SOLUTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rotten egg smell</td>
<td>Insufficient air or too much moisture</td>
<td>Turn pile and incorporate coarse browns (sawdust, leaves)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammonia smell</td>
<td>Too much nitrogen</td>
<td>Incorporate coarse browns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pile does not heat up or decomposes slowly</td>
<td>Pile too small</td>
<td>Add more organic matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficieient moisture</td>
<td>Turn pile and add water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of nitrogen</td>
<td>Incorporate food waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not enough air</td>
<td>Turn pile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cold weather</td>
<td>Increase pile size of insulate</td>
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The City of Orlando uses single stream recycling, so put all of your recyclables into the cart. Large boxes can get stuck and cause recycling to stay in your cart. Break boxes down so they come out of the cart easily. Items accepted:

- Steel, tin & aluminum cans
- Plastic bottles & containers #1-5, 7
- Office paper, brown paper bags, newspapers
- Paper cardboard, dairy & juice containers
- Flattened cardboard & paperboard
- Junk mail & magazines

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Food waste, plastic bags, polystyrene foam cups & containers or aluminum food pans.

Keep food waste, plastic bags, polystyrene foam cups & containers, aluminum food pans and other plastic film out of the recycling cart. Plastic bags harm recycling machinery, empty the recycling directly into the cart.

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN RECYCLE GREASE?**

Pouring oil and grease down your drain can easily damage the interior of your appliances. The City of Orlando provides a free used cooking oil recycling service:

- Simply pour your used oil into a shatter-proof container.
- Once full, bring it in to one of our many drop off locations.
- Visit cityoforlando.net/grease to find drop off locations near you.

Types of oil accepted:

- Leftover grease from cooking animal fat (i.e. bacon)
- All vegetable oil
- Corn oil
- Olive oil
- Peanut oil
- Sesame oil
- Soy bean oil
- Sunflower oil
- Canola Oil
- Lard
- **NO MOTOR OIL**