

Cold Composting: A Simple Method

1. **Construction:** Continuous additions at various times. "*Dump-n-Run*".
2. **Container:** Very useful and recommended, but not absolutely necessary.
3. **Size:** Variable depending on container and method selected.
4. **Location:** Ideally convenient for homeowner and close to water source.
5. **Carbon:Nitrogen ratio:** May be variable. Depends on makeup of additions.
6. **Moisture:** Variable, ideally 50%.
7. **Aeration:** Variable. Ideally varied textures create air spaces.
8. **Ingredient size (feed stocks):** Variable.
9. **Attention:** Variable, irregular; turning/watering depends on homeowner.
10. **Temperature:** Pile temperature will most likely equilibrate with ambient air.
11. **Drawback:** Cold composting is an effective, but *slower*, method of composting.
12. **Microbial action:** Often less prolific than hot method, fungi and molds are active in the cold method. Beneficial insects are involved in the process.
13. **Time to product:** Variable, 6- 24 months.
14. **Product volume:** 1/2 to 1/3 of original size.
15. **Cold methods may also include:** pit, trench and sheet composting and worm bins.

Our website: nmcomposters.org