

What is Compostable?

Anything that was once alive!



Food Scraps
Dryer Lint



Vacuum cleaner contents



Natural Fiber Products



Yard Trimmings and leaves

Non-slick paper products

(tissues, paper towels, egg cartons, paper rolls,
cardboard, newsprint, cereal boxes)

Beginning composters might want to avoid adding meat, fish and dairy products which may attract vermin. As you become successful and understand the applications of your chosen method, more operations will apply.



**COMPOST HAPPENS.
WE CAN HELP!**

Successful composting means your composting method:

Easily fits in with your lifestyle, is acceptable to everyone in the household, and requires no major changes.

Satisfies why you want to compost

Is an activity which makes you happy

Learn More, Take a class!



*For more on composting methods and a complete list of classes please visit us at www.nmcomposters.org
With questions you can email us at compost-questions@nmcomposters.org*

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The Key to Successful Composting is
Selecting a Method that works for You!



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Getting Started



Answer the following questions.

Why compost? (Soil amendment, reduce landfill volume, environmentally friendly, why not?)

Considerations, concerns? (physical disability, age, time, cost, water, neighbors, personal aversions [mice, bugs, odors, worms])

Location and available space? (inside, outside shady, above ground, below ground, containment ...)

What and how much do you have to compost? (kitchen scraps, yard waste, chicken or horse manure)



Composting Methods

Outdoor Cold Composting

Little maintenance
Turning optional, but moisture must be maintained
Does not kill seeds
End product in 12–18 months

Pit Composting

Simple
Bury organic material directly in soil
Requires digging
Decomposition complete in 12–18 months

Outdoor Hot Composting

Must be assembled all at once
Requires a minimum 3'x3'x3' bin
Accommodates large amounts of organic materials
Must be turned regularly (Good Exercise!)
Moisture must be maintained
End product in 4–6 months

Worm Composting

Little maintenance—can be located indoors or out
inexpensive equipment
Requires less water to maintain moisture
Processes smaller amounts of kitchen scraps
Monitoring required to maintain optimal environment
Finished worm castings in 8–12 months

Bokashi Bucket Composting

2 stage process
Stage 1: an anaerobic fermentation process
Requiring addition of micro-organisms
Can process all kitchen waste, including meat, bones and dairy
Finished product in 2–3 weeks
Stage 2: fermented product buried in garden soil

Start with considerations and concerns.



Examples

Cost: consider DIY approaches to all methods

Discomfort with bugs or rodents: consider Bokashi Method or sealed/raised bins

Animals: consider methods that are raised or sealed or won't attract animals, including the family dog

Age and/or strength factors: hot composting requires turning—consider a less strenuous method

Limited space: consider worms or bokashi

No convenient water: consider worms or bokashi

Lazy? or too much to do?: consider cold

Next, what are most of your compost materials?:

Fruit and vegetable scraps — all options

Household paper products: several options

Yard trimmings: hot or cold composting

Natural fiber products: hot or cold



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