

## Troubleshooting

Symptom:	<b>Smells bad</b>
Cause:	Not enough air; too wet
Solution:	Mix contents; add dry materials
Symptom:	<b>Not heating up</b>
Cause:	Not enough material in bin; too shady
Solution:	Add more material; mix contents; move bin to a partly sunny location
Symptom:	<b>Attracts flies or other pests</b>
Cause:	Food is exposed; not enough brown material; bin contains unacceptable materials
Solution:	Alter materials added; cover food with brown material or soil
Symptom:	<b>Not composting</b>
Cause:	Too dry
Solution:	Moisten until slightly damp
Symptom:	<b>Not composting</b>
Cause:	Too wet
Solution:	Turn the pile and add dry, brown material
Symptom:	<b>Not composting</b>
Cause:	Too much grass
Solution:	Remove grass; turn contents and add brown material
Symptom:	<b>Not composting</b>
Cause:	Too much woody material
Solution:	Turn contents and add fresh green material
Symptom:	<b>Too wet</b>
Cause:	Poor drainage, too much green material
Solution:	Turn contents and add brown material



## Tips for composting faster

- Place bin in a partly sunny location
- Place bin on exposed soil to make it easier for worms and other insects to access the bin contents
- Chop larger materials into smaller pieces
- Mix bin contents weekly
- Save your fall leaves to use in the summer

## Composting is easy!

### The Dirt on Composting Myths

Myth:	<b>Composters attract rodents and other animals</b>
The Dirt:	Animals are not attracted to properly operated composters
Solution:	Don't put bones, meat, dairy products, oil, or grease in composter
Myth:	<b>Yard is too small</b>
The Dirt:	Composting takes up little space
Solution:	Compost bins are about the size of a garbage can. Compost is useful for even the smallest gardens
Myth:	<b>Composting smells</b>
The Dirt:	Composters rarely smell, and it's easy to resolve if they do
Solution:	If your composter begins to develop an odour, turn contents over with a shovel
Myth:	<b>Curbside collection is better</b>
The Dirt:	Backyard composting provides a healthful and free alternative to chemical fertilizers
Solution:	Compost your food scraps and yard trimmings and use the compost in your own yard
Myth:	<b>Garburators are a better choice for food waste</b>
The Dirt:	Food waste disposed through garburators can clog pipes and strain sewage treatment facilities
Solution:	Save your pipes; compost kitchen food scraps in a backyard composter
Myth:	<b>Composting is hard and messy</b>
The Dirt:	Composting takes just a few minutes each week, and it's easy. It's no messier than putting food scraps in the garbage.
Solution:	Try it; it's easy!



## Where to buy

- ✂️ **The City provides subsidized composting units.** They are only available at HUB Hardware in Beaurepaire Village, 441 Beaconsfield Blvd. Phone: 514 695-3389



A guide to

# Backyard Composting



Nature's Recycling

# Get the best out of your bin!

## 1. Place bin

Place bin in a level, well-drained, partly sunny location.



## 2. Create base layer

Add approximately 6 - 10 cm (3 - 4 in) of leaves, straw, or twigs to the bottom of the bin. This allows air to circulate and encourages proper drainage.

## 3. Add materials

Add a mixture of green and brown materials. Greens are quick to rot and provide important nitrogen and moisture. Browns are drier, provide fiber and carbon, and allow important air pockets to form. See the **What's In What's Out** chart for acceptable materials.



## 4. Mix bin contents and regulate moisture

Mix bin contents every 1 - 2 weeks. Mixing adds air and distributes moisture and heat which help speed up composting. Bin contents should be like a wrung-out sponge. Mix the contents to determine the moisture content. If compost is too wet, add more brown materials; if it is too dry, add some green materials.



## 5. Use compost

The composting process usually takes 3 - 9 months. Finished compost is the dark brown, almost black soil-like layer found at the bottom and center of the bin. Remove the door or lid and use a shovel to remove your compost. Spread the finished compost on your garden beds to retain moisture, add nutrients, and suppress weeds.



## ✓ What's In

### Green Materials



- raw fruit and vegetable peels or leftovers



- coffee grounds
- tea leaves, tea bags
- eggshells



- grass clippings
- fresh green garden waste

### Brown Materials



- twigs and small brush
- cardboard egg cartons



- coffee filters
- paper towels, napkins



- shredded paper
- wood chips and shavings



- dried leaves, grass
- straw

## ✗ What's Out



- cheese
- fats and oils



- meat, poultry, fish, bones

- diseased plants
- pesticide-treated grass clippings
- pet waste

## Questions?

- Beaconsfield Public Works, 514 428-4500
- beaconsfield.ca
- Your Master Composter: