



## BACKYARD COMPOSTING

### BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

1. Find an area of your yard that gets at least five hours of sunlight per day for best results. (You can compost in the shade; it takes a bit longer.)
2. Make or purchase a composting bin to place in your chosen area. A wire ring of chicken wire works just fine, as does a simple pile.
3. Find a container with a tight-sealing lid to store your kitchen waste.
4. Fill the container with your kitchen waste.
5. Accumulate a large pile of brown leaves to put in your composting bin.
6. Moisten the leaves to the consistency of a wrung-out sponge.
7. Periodically, stir the contents of your kitchen-waste container into the pile of leaves.
8. After about one month to 6-weeks, check the bottom of the pile to look for finished compost -- it will look like mulch and smell like "fresh, good soil". Use it to mulch around plants and to mix with garden soil.

### What Can I Put In My Compost?

Just about any kitchen or yard waste can go into your backyard compost. Dry leaves, shredded newspaper and soiled napkins can also be mixed into the bin. Always cover food waste with leaves, weeds, or paper to avoid attracting bugs.

### YES! COMPOST KITCHEN & YARD WASTE & OTHER DRY MATERIALS

cores/peelings	tea bags	weeds
coffee grounds	vegetables	natural-fiber
egg shells	flowers	dryer lint
fruits	grass/hedge clippings	paper towel tubes
nut shells	houseplant cuttings	pet hair
paper filters	leaves	real wood ashes
pasta	pine needles	sawdust
rice	sod	shredded, dry leaves
stale bread	straw	newspaper
	twigs	

### NO! Do NOT Compost

bones	grease	oils/fats
fish	mature weeds (with	pet wastes
dairy products	seeds)	whole egg
diseased/insect-	meat	
infested plants		

For More Information:  
Metro Beautification & Environment Commission  
[www.nashville.gov/beautification](http://www.nashville.gov/beautification)