

# Home Compost

## BENEFITS OF COMPOST

- Improves soil conditions & helps control water, making it easier for plants to grow
- Encourages a healthy ecosystem for microbes
- Decreases household waste
- Reduces carbon emissions from trash carrier services
- Removes organic material from landfills and prevents the creation of methane gas

## COMPOSTING OPTIONS

### **Outdoor Composting\***

- Open-Air Pile
- Mesh Bin
- Plastic Container
- Wooden Frame
- Rollers & Drums

### **Indoor Composting**

- Vermicomposting
- Bokashi

### **Industrial Scale Composting\***

- Yard Waste Program
- Food Scraps Program

*\* Check your town or city ordinances for restrictions*

## STEPS FOR COMPOSTING

- **Layer materials** – 3:1 ratio of Browns & Greens
- **Add water** as needed – Keep composting material damp like a wrung-out sponge
- **Aerate** – Wait 2 weeks then turn as often as every 2 weeks or as little as once yearly
- **Wait** for decomposition – Should take between 3-months to 18-months, varies by effort & season
- **Finished compost** is dark & crumbly, smells earthy, and has no recognizable pieces



## USES FOR COMPOSTING

- Preparation for new or annual garden beds
- Mulch for existing garden beds
- Lawn treatment to add organic matter to soil
- Homemade potting soil

---

## **LEARN MORE WITH THESE RESOURCES**

PRO-TIP: Google “site:edu compost” (or site:gov) for research-based advice

- ❖ **University of Minnesota Extension** <https://extension.umn.edu/how-manage-soil-and-nutrients-home-gardens/composting-home-gardens>
- ❖ **University of Minnesota Extension** <https://extension.umn.edu/how-manage-soil-and-nutrients-home-gardens/living-soil-healthy-garden>
- ❖ **Ramsey County Recycling & Waste** <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/backyard-composting>
- ❖ **MN Pollution Control Agency** <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/composting-your-backyard>

## **CLASS NOTES**

---

### **REMINDERS FOR LATER**

What things are available to me to compost?

Which composting method will work best for me and my family? (*indoor, outdoor, drop-offs*)

How can I use the compost in my home, yard, or garden?