



# COMPOST LEARNING HUB

## *Simplified Composting Guide*



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# BLACK BIN

## What is it?

A black plastic vessel that is pest and weather resistant. A place to discard your food scraps and break them down into compost.

## PROs

- Easy to set up
- Withstands rain and snow
- Low maintenance

## Yes

Fruits	Egg shells
Vegetables	Tea bags
Garden/ grass clippings	Straw/hay Wood chips
Leaves	

## How?

Choose a partially shaded location with good drainage, assemble and install. Add equal parts browns and greens from the top. Mix as needed, and empty from the bottom when compost is ready.

## CONs

- Difficult to turn compost materials
- Mid-sized capacity
- Slow decomposition

## No

Cooking oil/fats	Bread/pasta/ cereal
Hard shells (nuts)	Dairy
Seafood (oysters, crabs)	Plastics
Plastic	Chemicals



# TUMBLER

## What is it?

A composter unit elevated from the ground that's designed for easy turning.

## How?

Choose a sunny, flat spot to place the composter. Fill with equal parts greens and browns and rotate the unit often to aerate and speed up the process.

## PROs

- Easy to set up
- Easy to rotate materials

## CONs

- Can become heavy to rotate
- Difficult to drain

## Yes

Fruits	Egg shells
Vegetables	Tea bags
Garden/ grass clippings	Straw/hay Wood chips
Leaves	

## No

Cooking oil/fats	Bread/pasta/ cereal
Hard shells (nuts)	Dairy
Seafood (oysters, crabs)	Plastics
Plastic	Chemicals

# 3 BIN

## What is it?

A larger composting system with 3 units that can be built from mixed materials. Each bin holds different stages of composted matter.

Stage 1: fresh scraps

Stage 2: Cooking

Stage 3: Settling/Finished

## How?

Move compostable materials from bin to bin based on the stage of decomposition.

As the matter change stages, from fresh to slightly decomposed it moves from bin 1 to 2. Bin 2 is where it cooks and should not be disturbed.

Bin 3 is it's final stage of resting and good to use in the garden.

## PROs

- Large capacity
- Wide opening and access to materials

## CONs

- Takes up a lot of space
- Can be difficult to move materials between bins

### Yes

Fruits	Egg shells
Vegetables	Tea bags
Garden/ grass clippings	Straw/hay Wood chips
Leaves	

### No

Cooking oil/fats	Bread/pasta/ cereal
Hard shells (nuts)	Dairy
Seafood (oysters, crabs)	Plastics
Plastic	Chemicals



# GREEN CONE



## What is it?

A double-wall solar chamber that heats up with the sun and digests food. This system does not produce compost but decomposes organic waste and provides soil with nutrients.

## PROs

- Digests materials that other composters cannot, such as meat and small bones
- Digests large amount of materials

## Yes

Meat	Pasta
Fish	Fruit
Poultry	Vegetables
Shells	Tea Bags
Bones	Pet Feces
Bread	

## How?

Choose a sunny spot in the yard, that has good drainage, dig a hole, and place the cone into the hole.  
Consumes most foods and more.

## CONs

- Slows down significantly in the winter
- Labourous set up

## No

Cooking oil/fats	Metal
Hard shells (nuts)	Wood
Seafood (oysters, crabs)	Paper
Plastic	Grass clippings
	Chemicals



# THE COMPOST MIX

Composting is dependent on several factors. Here are a few to consider when it comes to efficiently composting your piles!

## 1. Greens and Browns

Compost requires a mix of greens and browns. Greens are typically newer materials and high in nitrogen. Browns are typically older materials that are high in carbon.

## 2. Turning & Temperature

Heat and oxygen help decompose your pile. Turning a pile (especially open-air types) too often can lower the temperature significantly and slows down the composting process.

## 3. Size

Larger piles can hold more heat, but piles that are too big can take much longer to decompose. Experiment with the size of your pile to see what works best for your space.

# GREENS

*high in nitrogen*

Grass clippings

Coffee grounds/tea bags

Vegetable and fruit scraps

Trimmings from perennial and annual plants

Annual weeds that haven't set seed

Eggshells

Animal manures (cow, horse, sheep, chicken, rabbit, but not dog or cat manure)

Seaweed

# BROWNS

*high in carbon*

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Fall leaves	Paper (newspaper,
Pine needles	writing/printing
Twigs, chipped tree branches/bark	paper, paper plates,
Straw or hay	napkins,
Sawdust	coffee filters)
Corn stalks	Corrugated cardboard
Dryer lint	(without waxy/slick coatings)
Cotton fabric	