

How to Construct and Maintain a

Quick & Easy Compost Pile

Constructing Your Compost Bin

- Roll out and cut a 12 foot length of wire mesh fencing such as chicken wire.
- Form the wire into a cylinder that is 3 feet in diameter, and 3 to 4 feet tall.
- Support the wire cylinder by securing 3 to 4 metal or wooden stakes, poles or re-bar inside the cylinder.
- Place the bin directly on a relatively flat section of soil in the shade. Pound the stakes into the ground to support the bin.

Adding Materials to Your Compost Pile

- Add a 6 inch layer of "brown matter" (grass, leaves, straw) to the bottom of the container.
- Add a 2 inch layer of "green matter" (food scraps, shredded newspaper, shredded cardboard) on top of the brown layer.
- Add a 1 inch layer of dirt or soil on top of the green layer.
- Repeat these layers, watering each one as you go, until the pile is 3 to 4 feet tall and fills the bin.
- After 2 days, mix the layers thoroughly.

Maintaining Your Compost Pile

- Keep your pile moist by periodically watering it. Check the pile's moisture by digging into it about 1 foot. If it's dry, thoroughly water it.
- Add new green and brown matter to the top of the pile. Bury food scraps down 8 inches into the pile to avoid odors and pests.
- Mix the pile periodically. Using a garden fork, move the outside material to the center of the pile, and the center material to the outside of the pile.
- After mixing 2 to 3 times, you should have finished compost.

What to Add to Your Compost Pile

- Manure from horses, rabbits and chickens
- Coffee and tea grounds, bags & filters
- Kitchen fruit and vegetable scraps
- Eggshells, broken
- Grass clippings
- Straw
- Dried leaves
- Green garden waste
- Pine Needles
- Corn stalks and husks, shredded
- Black and white newspaper, shredded
- Cardboard, torn into small pieces
- Dryer lint
- Hair
- Brown paper grocery bags, shredded

What Not to Add to Your Compost Pile

- Meat, fish, or dairy products
- Weeds that have gone to seed
- Diseased or insect infested vegetable or flower plants
- Herbicide treated grass clippings
- Manure from dogs, cats, or pigs