

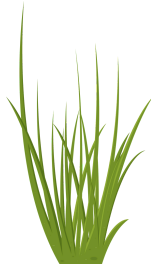
Passive Composting



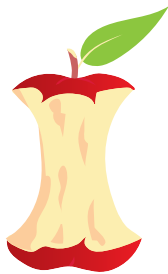
Composting doesn't need to be hard! You can simply start a compost pile by gathering some materials in a mound and let Mother Nature do the rest!

Materials Needed:

- **Brown materials** (dead leaves, twigs, cardboard, straw, hay, wood chips, sawdust, newspaper, dry lawn clippings, branches)



- **Green materials** (vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, grass clippings, dead flowers)



- If animals are a concern, avoid adding fruits/vegetables or use an animal-proof container



- Its recommended to use 2 parts brown matter to 1 part green matter (nitrogen) for the best compost!

Passive Composting



Once you've chosen your location, you can start your cold compost!

How to Build a Compost Pile:

- Pick a spot on bare ground in your yard or garden and start layering brown materials to a depth of 6 inches
- On top of your brown material, add the green material you've collected, with more in the middle than at the sides. You can add 4-6 inches of green material on top of the brown stuff
- Keep layering! Add another 6 inches of brown material on top of your kitchen scraps!
- Feel free to keep adding layers at a $\frac{2}{3}$ brown to $\frac{1}{3}$ green ratio! Always finish with brown material on top
- Once or twice a week, add new green scraps and cover them with brown

What to Expect:

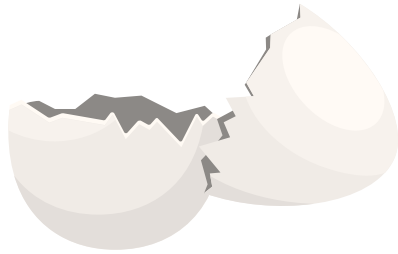
- No need to turn, but the compost pile should be moist (add water as needed)
- By next spring you should notice that your compost pile is the same size or smaller than when you started, the pile will shrink 70-80% in size. This means your materials have decomposed well
- Finished compost looks dark, crumbly, and smells earthy
- No recognizable food or plant bits should remain



The best time to add compost directly to the soil of a garden bed or container is before planting in the spring or after harvest in the fall

Egg Shell Compost

1



Save egg shells, break them up, put them in a zip lock bag, and store them in the freezer

2

When you have enough to cover a baking sheet, spread over the baking sheet and put into a preheated oven at 400 degrees for about 10 minutes, or until they turn brown

3

Remove egg shells from oven, put into a blender, and blend until the shells become a powder

4



Sprinkle powder into holes prior to planting seeds, only a small amount is needed

Eggshells provide calcium, potassium, and magnesium, which are essential for plant growth!

