

COMPOSTING

DO

- Turn your aerobic bin regularly. Once every 6-7 days is ideal. This will insure that air is supplied to all parts of the pile, and that all the material gets composted. When turning the pile, put the material from the middle of the pile outside, and vice versa, so that all the material will be composted.
- Water your compost pile regularly - every 1-3 days in the summer, less often in the winter. Compost should be as moist as a wrung out sponge. If it gets too wet, air will not be able to get through the pile, and foul odors may arise. Likewise, if the pile gets too dry, decomposition will stop. Both aerobic and anaerobic systems need water, but the anaerobic will require less overall.
- Compost all fruit & vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds & filters, tea bags, citrus rinds, eggshells, used paper towels, soft green plant trimmings, most types of sawdust, chopped woody prunings, fallen leaves, lawn clippings, herbivore manures

DON'T

- Put any meat, dairy products, fats, or oils into the compost pile. These materials tend to putrefy instead of breaking down, and will attract a wide variety of pests, including flies, rats, raccoons, stray dogs and cats, etc.
- Put dog and cat wastes into the compost pile. The manure from any animal that eats meat contains several pathogens which will survive the compost process, and affect any fruits or vegetables on which the compost may be used.
- Put any weeds that have gone to seed or have root systems, poisonous or diseased plants, rocks, or garbage into the compost pile.

5 THINGS NEEDED TO MAKED GOOD COMPOST

- 1) **NITROGEN** (*greens*) – fruit & vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds, tea bags, fresh grass clippings. If you have too many *greens* your compost may smell. You can offset this by adding *carbon*.
- 2) **CARBON** (*browns*) – sawdust, paper towels, dry grass, and dry leaves. If your compost is too dry and not breaking down, you need to add *greens*.
- 3) **AIR** (*oxygen*) – this is attained by turning the compost pile on a regular basis.
- 4) **WATER** – the compost should be damp, but not wet. If your compost is too wet, you may need to add *carbon*. If your compost is drying out too quickly, you may need to cover your pile with a tarp to help retain moisture.
- 5) **MICROORGANISMS** – these will come to the compost on their own if you have the four previous things.