

How to Guide

For Andy
Galbraith



Hello!

Compost is a great way to reduce your food waste while fertilizing your plants, but it won't work if the compost isn't getting the proper treatment. For your custom-made compost barrel, the following requirements will keep your compost healthy and efficient.



Taking out Compost

1. Keep your compostable food separate from the rest of your trash
2. Open door on compost barrel and dump contents inside
3. Make sure door is closed
4. Use handle to spin the compost inside the barrel.

Can Put In

Aerobic bins are very forgiving, and you can put most organic materials in it. You need to have a balance of green (nitrogen rich) and brown (carbon rich) materials. Each are as follows:

Brown: Fall leaves, pine needles, paper (no ink), cardboard, straw or hay

Green: Fruit scraps, vegetable scraps, grass clippings, and most food waste in general

The exact ratio of browns to greens isn't too specific, but try to keep it to about 3:1



Cannot Put In

There are so many different types of food scraps you can put into aerobic composting bins, but there are still some foods you should avoid.

Raspberry and Blackberry brambles are waste that you should avoid putting in compost, along with very long twigs or big branches.

Also, animal products such as meat, bones, butter, milk, and fish skins should definitely be kept out of the bin.

Lastly, keep pet feces out of your compost mix.

Maintenance

- Mix your compost daily to make sure the proper amount of oxygen is mixed into the compost. If not, your food waste will have trouble breaking down
- Water your compost. The consistency should be that of a damp sponge. A bottle or so a day should keep the consistency.



Good
Luck!



What should I put in my bin?

Any type of organic, nitrogen rich material should work. Be sure to have a balance of green and brown materials.

Why does my bin smell?

The bin needs more circulation. If the bin doesn't get enough circulation and oxygen the food will not break down as quickly and will start to smell.

Are there any foods I should be cautious of?

Yeah, you should completely avoid putting processed foods, meat, citrus, or spicy foods. Meat could carry diseases and the bone will not break down.

Should I keep it in sunlight or shade?

Shade is the best area to put it.

How do I deal with an ant infestation?

Ant traps, chalk/petroleum jelly, add water to bedding.

Why do I have fruit flies?

The food is either exposed or you are putting too much food.

How do I deal with a mite infestation?

Don't add foods with a high moisture content (fruits or veggies).

Should I water my bin?

You should water you bin sufficiently so the compost doesn't dry up. The soil should have the constancy of a wrung out sponge.

How long does it take for my food to decompose?

It honestly depends on the type of food you are putting in and how much. It normally takes a week for it to show signs of decomposing but the bin can take up to a month-year.

