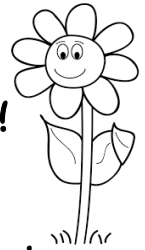




Family Activity: How to Make Compost at Home!



We throw compostable stuff in the garbage every day! By starting a compost pile at home, you and your family will be helping to reduce landfill waste, recycle your family's food scraps, and help plants grow! With your parents help, you can make your very own compost.

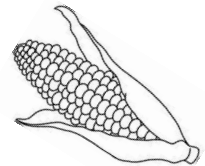
What you will need:

- ✓ Any small bin with a lid that will fit under your sink
- ✓ Optional liners for the small bin, either paper bags or compostable liners
- ✓ A place in the yard to put the compost
- ✓ A tarp large enough to cover the pile
- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Dirt
- ✓ Water



What kinds of things can you put in your compost?

- ✓ Table Scraps: Fruits, Vegetables, Corncobs, Bread, and lots more!
- ✓ Other Food items: Egg Shells, Coffee Grounds, Tea Bags
- ✓ Things That Aren't Food: Shredded Paper, Dirty or Wet Paper, Sawdust, Cardboard, and Dryer Lint!
- ✓ Yard Waste: Leaves, Flowers, Grass



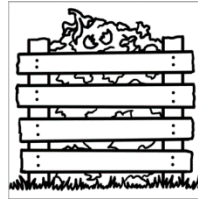
Is There Anything You Shouldn't Put In Your Compost?

- ✓ Yes! There are lots of things that don't belong in a compost pile, even if they seem like they might:
- ✓ Clean, Dry Paper- This can be recycled and made into more paper!
- ✓ Plastic, Glass, or Metal- These items are recyclable and will not break down in compost.
- ✓ Meat and Fish scraps, Bones, or Animal Poo- These things can attract bad bugs and pests to your compost!



How to Start:

- ✓ Find a safe place in your yard to start your compost.
- ✓ Start saving your table scraps in a small bin. Make sure the bin has a lid and can be kept out of sight. When it gets full, take it out and put it in your compost spot.
- ✓ Keep adding things to your compost pile like food, yard waste, and wet paper!
- ✓ Add a little dirt or manure to your pile to help it break down faster.
- ✓ Keep your compost covered with a tarp when you aren't using it. This will keep the compost safe from animals and it will also keep it warm! Heat will help your compost break down even more!
- ✓ Water the compost! Make sure it stays moist. You can either water it yourself or let rain do the job.
- ✓ Turn your compost. Every few weeks or so, get your parent's help and go out to stir up the compost with a shovel. This helps the compost get oxygen.



When Will the Compost Be Done?

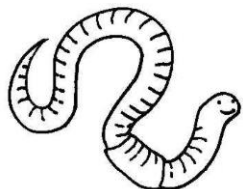
Well, you will have to be patient. This process can take anywhere from a few months to a year, depending on what kind of things you put in it and how often you stir it up.

You will know it is ready when the compost looks and smells like very dark soil. Get your parents to help you know when it is ready.

What Can You Do with Your Finished Compost?

Use the compost in your own garden! Remember, compost is only meant to be an additive to regular dirt, so don't use too much!

Do you have way more compost than you need? Consider giving it away to friends, family, neighbors, your city parks department, or even give it to a community garden or farm!



For More Information Go to
http://eartheasy.com/grow_compost.html