



# Reduce Waste.

## Compost at Home.

One of the best ways to divert household waste from costly transfer stations is by composting at home.

### What?

Many household materials can be composted. These are best categorized as carbon rich "Browns" and nitrogen rich "Greens".

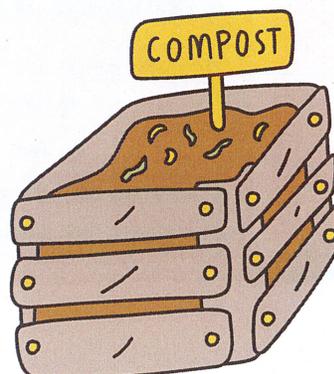
- Browns: dry leaves and grass clippings, shredded paper, untreated sawdust etc.
- Greens: fruit and vegetable peel scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds (including the filter), flowers, green leaves or fresh grass clippings

Ensure a balance of greens to browns for the best compost outcome.

**AVOID:** dairy and meat products, oily foods, pet waste, chemically treated sawdust or yard clippings, weeds with mature seeds

### How?

- Choose a compost bin that you can easily add and remove materials from, and that is easily turned. Ensure efficient aeration.
- Start your compost pile by layering materials brown - green - brown - green etc.
- Add some soil to assist in compost breakdown and reduce odours.
- Turn your compost pile regularly.
- Periodically add water to support breakdown of organics. Compost should be damp, not soaked.
- After a period of time the compost will breakdown into nutrient rich soil. Add this soil to your garden, potted plants, or share with a neighbour.



**When?**

You can compost all year long! However, the breaking down of material requires warm conditions, so decomposition will only occur during the warmer months. In the fall, leave sufficient room in your bin to add materials throughout the winter. When the warmer months arrive, the materials will thaw and begin to decompose.

**Why?**

Composting your household materials drastically reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and cuts down on methane gas production.

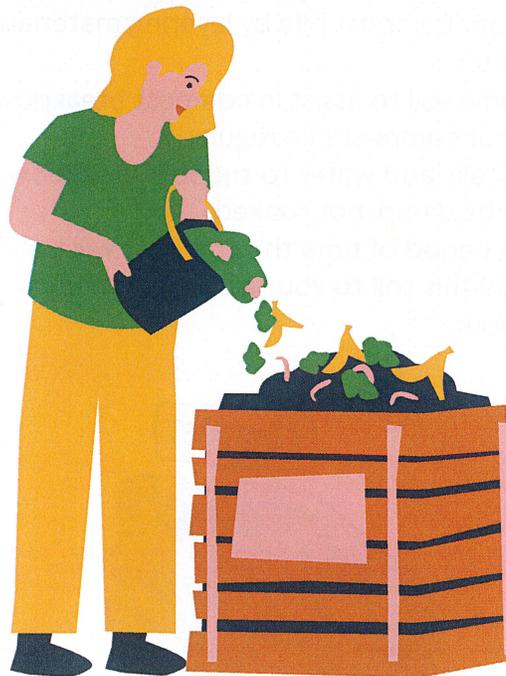
Composting assists soil by adding in nutrients and moisture.

Composting is relatively easy and inexpensive.

Composting at home can save you tax dollars by reducing the amount of waste the municipality must transfer to a landfill.

**Worms!**

Some people choose to add red wiggler worms to their compost to assist in the breakdown of organic materials, as well as to add beneficial nutrients to the soil. This is not necessary. However, if you choose to do so ensure you have provided the appropriate bin and researched the best ways to support the worms.



# Trouble Shooting Your Compost:

Problem	Diagnosis	Treatment
Foul smelling odours	Not enough aeration or too wet	Turn or stir your pile <i>and/or</i> add more brown materials
Pests	Bin not properly covered <i>or</i> improper materials added (ie. meat).	Line your bin with fine mesh wire to deter rodents. To avoid flies, make sure fresh food scraps are buried into the pile.
Breakdown of materials is too slow	Materials are too big <i>or</i> not enough microorganisms	Cut materials into smaller pieces <i>and/or</i> add soil to add microorganisms
Compost will not warm up	Too wet, not enough material, <i>or</i> not enough nitrogen	Add water, add material, <i>and/or</i> add more nitrogen rich greens

## Further Resources

- Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council - [saskatchewanwastereduction.ca](http://saskatchewanwastereduction.ca)
- Sask. Outdoors - [saskoutdoors.org](http://saskoutdoors.org)
- The City of Regina - [www.regina.ca](http://www.regina.ca)
- The University of Saskatchewan - [www.gardening.usask.ca](http://www.gardening.usask.ca)
- The Town of Lumsden - [www.lumsden.ca](http://www.lumsden.ca)

### References:

<https://www.regina.ca/export/sites/Regina.ca/home-property/recycling-garbage/.galleries/pdfs/Backyard-Compost-Guide.pdf>

<https://www.gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-healthysoils/compost-how-to-guide.php/>