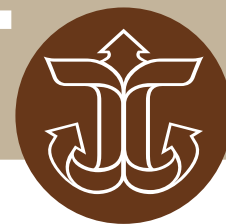
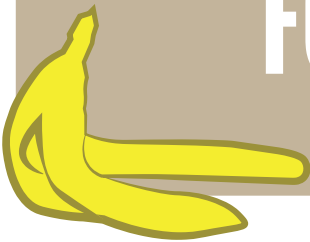
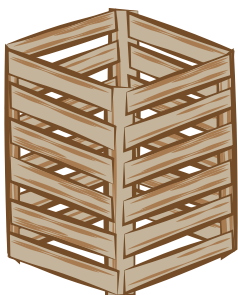


FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING: Do-It-Yourself



BUILD OR BUY A BIN (OR TWO!)

Search online for “DIY compost bins” if you want to build your own, or purchase bins at Resource Recovery’s Scalehouse, M-F, 8 AM - 4 PM, with credit/debit cards, cash, checks, or money orders made out to RIRRC.



WHAT GOES IN MY BIN?

Browns (3 parts)

Leaves • Twigs • Dead flowers • Straw
Corn stalks & husks • Shredded cardboard & paper
Paper towels & napkins • Vacuum cleaner bag contents
Dryer lint • Untreated wood chips & sawdust

Greens (1 part)

Vegetable & fruit peels, cores, rinds, scraps
Spoiled vegetables & fruit • Eggshells
Coffee grounds, filters & tea bags • Grass clippings
Fresh plant & yard trimmings

Do NOT Compost

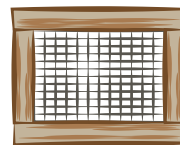
Meats, fish & poultry • Bones • Dairy products
Egg whites & yolks • Fats, oil & grease • Pet waste
Weeds laden with seeds • Diseased plants

USING YOUR BIN

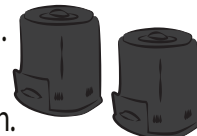
- Use an airtight scrap pail on your counter or keep a scrap container or bag in the fridge or freezer.
- Chop up larger scraps into smaller pieces.
- Keep a 3:1 ratio of browns to greens.
- Your pile should feel like a wrung-out sponge. If it is dry, add a little water. If it is wet, add some browns.
- Your pile needs oxygen. Use a garden tool, like a hoe or a pitchfork, to stir up contents weekly.

HARVESTING COMPOST

One bin: Use a screen built with 2x4s and wire mesh to separate recognizable scraps from compost. Add scraps back into bin.



Two bins: Stop adding materials to bin #1. Start using bin #2. Continue to stir up contents of bin #1 until all scraps break down.



USING COMPOST

- **Curing:** Compost with no recognizable scraps needs to sit for about 4 weeks before it is at ambient temperature, and ready to use. One way to ensure compost is cured is to apply it 4 weeks before planting.
- **New beds:** Till 1-3” into top 12” of dark soil or 2-6” into light soil.
- **Maintenance:** Once fully cured, place on areas that you have already planted.
- **Basic potting mix** = 1/3 compost + 1/3 sand + 1/3 soil

NEED MORE?

Compost approved for use in organic growing is available by the yd³ (1/2 yd³ min.) or in 40 lb bags at RIRRC, M-F, 6 AM - 3:45 PM & Sat. 6 AM - 12 PM. Pay at Scalehouse with cash, check, or credit card. Check rirrc.org for current pricing.