

What is composting?

The controlled biological decomposition of organic materials under aerobic and thermophilic conditions that produces a stabilized soil-like end-product.

What are the benefits of compost?

- Compost improves overall soil health
- Improves soil structure
- Increases water infiltration, water holding capacity and nutrient availability
- Provides slow-release nutrients
- Increases beneficial soil microbial life
- Compost increases overall plant health
- Low-cost alternative to commercial products

If composting is so great why isn't everyone doin' it? - Patti Olenick

- Leaf waste collection is not a statewide mandate
- Landfill tipping fees are low
- Yardwaste: a bulky, low value material relative to weight = high cost to transport materials
- Undervalued: difficult to determine a dollar value for the end product that takes into account the many benefits of using compost

What are good feed stocks for composting?

Carbon sources or “Browns” include dried garden residues, wood chips, sawdust, hay, straw and paper.

Nitrogen sources or “Greens” are grass clippings, yard trimmings, food scraps and animal manures.

Active vs. Passive Composting

Active composting

- Requires attention to 28-30:1 C:N ratio (by weight) and weekly turning of the pile.
- Maintains favorable temperatures for aerobic decomposition.
- Makes compost in about 3 months.

Passive composting

- Requires little effort – just add materials as they become available.
- The pile may not heat up well: weed and other seeds may survive.
- Makes compost in 6 – 8 months or more.

Composting methods

- Back yard either passive or active piles, or homemade or commercially available bins.
- Passive windrow
- Turned windrow
- Aerated static pile
- In-vessel
- Vermicomposting
- PHD method (piled high and deep)
- Anerobic digestion for energy recovery (Large Scale Commercial Facility)

Backyard Composting

Determining your Composting Needs

Where you live and how much materials you have will determine what type of composting bin you will need.

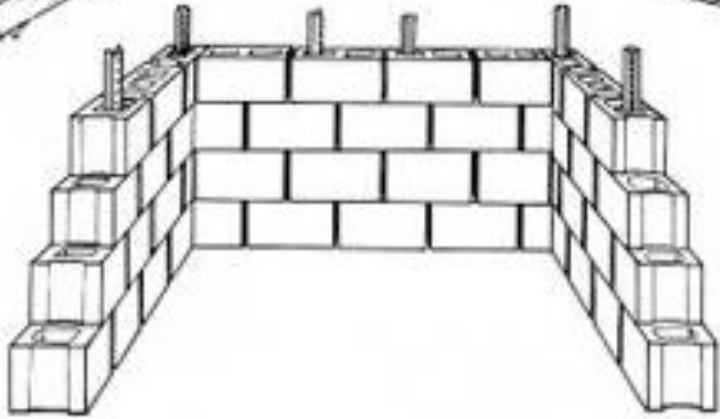








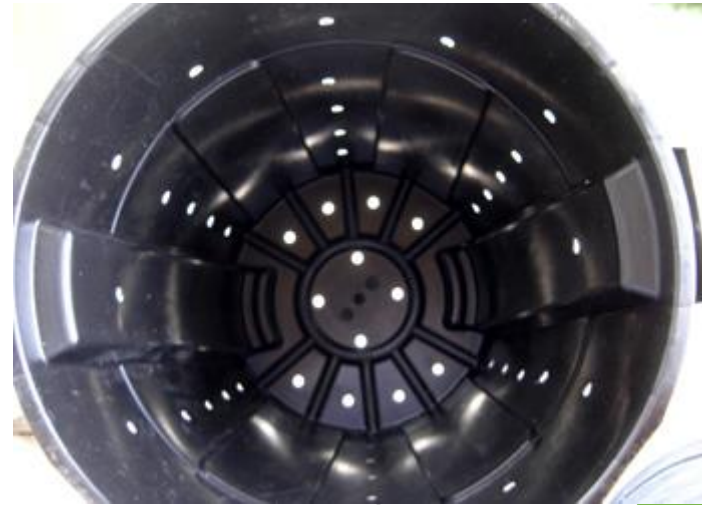




Purchase a Bin or Build your own Composting Bin?













PLEASANTVIEW
DEVELOPMENT



HORIZONTAL GRINDER



TUB GRINDER

ABC MULCH

VERMEER DEALER READY TO ASSIST



CITY COMPOST



TROMMEL SCREEN

BIOFUEL
POWER PLANT



COMPOST TURNER



ELECTRIC HORIZONTAL GRINDER



Tub Grinder



Compost Turner



Trommel Screen

