

Easy & Cheap

No-Bin System



This is the cheapest form of composting and is great if you have lots of yard trimmings and a moderate to large area to locate your heap. Cover the heap during rainy seasons.

Hoops



This type of bin is inexpensive. It can be made out of wire and stakes, or bought as an adjustable plastic enclosure, with or without a lid. Hoops are enclosed and are tidier than a heap and can be moved and covered easily, but are not animal resistant.

Worm Bins

These bins are ONLY for food scraps - no yard waste. It is ideal for those with a very small yard or no yard.



One Bin System

This bin comes in a variety of shapes such as: square, circular, or cone shaped. These bins are good for smaller yards, material volumes and areas with animals. Bins aid in moisture and heat retention.



Complex & Costly

Tumbler or Spinner



This bin rotates for easy mixing and fast decomposition. They are more expensive than other systems, but are convenient because they are easier to turn. These can be used for small spaces and are animal resistant.

Multi-Bin System



This is a great system for a household or community space creating a large amount of waste. It allows you to have three working piles all at different stages of decomposition. It is also easy to turn and harvest. It can be made animal resistant.

Completed Compost



Compost is finished when the original material has been transformed into a uniform, dark brown, crumbly product with a pleasant, earthy aroma.

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Boonton Township *Green Team*

Backyard Composting Guide



Keep Boonton Township
Green!

**REDUCE. REUSE.
RECYCLE.
COMPOST.**

Why Compost?

- ◆ Cheaper than chemical fertilizer
- ◆ Gradually releases nutrients
- ◆ Diverts waste from the landfill
- ◆ Loosens soil
- ◆ Retains water like mulch
- ◆ Accelerates nutrient cycling
- ◆ Sustainable improvement to the soil
- ◆ Reduced run-off and water pollution
- ◆ Reduced irrigation bill

What is Compost?

Compost is the product of a biological process. Microorganisms break down organic materials such as food waste into humus, a nutrient-rich material that can be used to improve soil quality.

What goes in?

Grass clippings — Plant pruning
Spent flowers — Avoid flower heads
Coffee grounds — Kitchen scraps
Barnyard animal manures — cow, horse,
chicken, goat, sheep, & rabbit
Fish parts — scales, bones, heads, &
other seafood scraps
Egg shells

Composting Recipe

1. Blend equal parts of green or wet material and brown or dry material.
2. Layer or mix these materials in a pile.
3. Water and fluff the compost to add air.
4. The microorganisms will break down the material over time.

Ingredients

Nitrogen — Grass clipping, landscape trimming, vegetable and fruit trimmings and peels To reduce the potential for pests or odors, avoid meat and/or dairy scraps. To help get your pile to proper temperatures use manure from chickens, turkeys, cows or horses.

Carbon — Brown (dry) yard and garden material such as dry leaves, twigs, hay, or shredded paper are ideal sources of carbon.

Water — A compost pile should be moist as a wrung-out sponge. Reach into your pile and grab a handful of material and squeeze it; if a few drops of water come out, it's probably got enough moisture, if it doesn't, add water.

Air — The bacteria and fungus in your pile need oxygen to live. If your pile is too dense or becomes too wet, the air supply to the inside is cut off and the beneficial organisms will die. To avoid this, turn and fluff the pile with a pitchfork often.

Composting Methods

Slow Harvest

Ready in 12-18 Months

Made by adding layers of available yard waste over several months.

1. Set compost bin where it will get rain.
2. Put yard waste in bin as it is generated in your yard. The material at the bottom and in the center will compost first.

Fast Harvest

Ready in 5-15 Weeks

Made by mixing equal weights of green and brown materials at once.

1. Add green materials such as grass clippings or vegetable scraps mixed with brown materials such as leaves.
2. Add water to pile until it is wet as a wrung out sponge.
3. Turn pile with a pitch fork or compost aerator tool twice a week for faster compost

What is The Green Team?

The Boonton Township **Green** Team is a group of volunteer residents, township employees and local community leaders. Our purpose is to inform and educate township residents about sustainability and how to incorporate these practices into their lives.