

Composting



Did You Know That Compost Can...

- Suppress plant diseases and pests.
- Reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Promote higher yields of agricultural crops.
- Facilitate reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by amending contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils.
- Cost-effectively remediate soils contaminated by hazardous waste.
- Remove solids, oil, grease, and heavy metals from stormwater runoff.
- Capture and destroy 99.6 percent of industrial volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) in contaminated air.
- Provide cost savings of at least 50 percent over conventional soil, water, and air pollution remediation technologies, where applicable.

What to Compost - The IN List

Animal manure	Hair and fur
Cardboard rolls	Houseplants
Clean paper	Leaves
Coffee grounds and filters	Nut shells
Cotton rags	Sawdust
Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint	Shredded newspaper
Eggshells	Tea bags
Fireplace ashes	Wood chips
Fruits and vegetables	Wool rags
Grass clippings	Yard trimmings

What Not to Compost - The OUT List

Leave Out/Reason Why

Black walnut tree leaves or twigs	Releases substances that might be harmful to plants
Coal or charcoal ash	Might contain substances harmful to plants
Dairy products (e.g., butter, egg yolks, milk, sour cream, yogurt)	Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
Diseased or insect-ridden plants	Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants
Fats, grease, lard, or oils	Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
Meat or fish bones and scraps	Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
Pet wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)	Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans
Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides	Might kill beneficial composting organisms

NOTE: Finished compost can be applied to lawns and gardens to help condition the soil and replenish nutrients. Compost, however, should not be used as potting soil for houseplants because of the presence of weed and grass seeds.