

What to Compost – the IN List

- Animal (cow or horse) manure
- Cardboard
- Clean paper
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Cotton rags (chemical free)
- Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- Eggshells (rinsed)
- Fireplace ashes
- Fruits and vegetables
- Grass clippings
- Hair and fur
- Hay and straw
- Houseplants
- Leaves
- Nut shells
- Sawdust
- Shredded newspapers
- Tea bags
- Wood chips
- Wool rags (chemical free)
- Yard Trimmings

What NOT to Compost – the OUT List

- **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 and egg yolks/whites**
 - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- **Fats, grease, lard or oils**
 - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- **Pet wastes**
 - Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens and viruses harmful to humans
- **Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides**
 - Might kill beneficial composting organisms

Compost Pile Problems

Symptoms	Problems	Solution
Bad odor	Not enough air, pile too wet	Turn it; add coarse, dry materials such as straw or leaves
Center of pile is dry	Not enough water, too much woody/coarse material	Turn and moisten materials; add fresh green wastes, chop or shred coarse waste
Compost is damp and warm in the middle but nowhere else	Too small	Collect more materials and mix the old ingredients into a new pile
Pile is damp but will not heat up	Lack of nitrogen	Mix in a nitrogen source like fresh grass clippings, manure, or ammonium sulfate