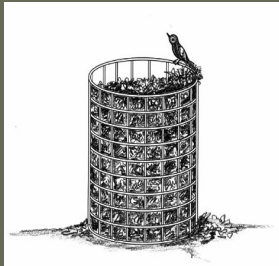


## Acceptable Bins

*It is possible and simple to make your own compost container or bin. To start, you will need wire mesh or wooden pallets. Put them firmly together so that they hold the contents in place.*

- *Container shall not larger then 5 feet by 5 feet by 5 feet.*
- *Containers are recommended to be placed in the rear of the property and located no closer than 5 feet from any side or rear property line.*
- *Water the pile every 7-10 days so that is damp*
- *Cover with a lid during hot summer months to retain moisture and keep out vermin*



*A wire mesh can be rolled up into a cylinder to hold the compost*

- *Make sure the pile is churned regularly*

- *Able to do hot composting*
- *Half-inch slits around the whole base for ventilation*



## Begin composting at home in your backyard!



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## Your Guide To Home Composting



Begin composting at home in your backyard!

Provided By:  
 **Kent City Health Department**

## Backyard Composting

Home composting yard materials and certain food scraps can provide valuable material for gardens and landscaping while reducing costs for off-site composting or disposal. Food scraps can be converted into useful, humus like soil. It is easy to make and can significantly reduce organic waste.



## Why Compost?

Composting your kitchen scraps and yard waste at home can help divert material from your local landfill and provide a good quality product for use in your yard and garden. Home composting is both fun and easy to do, and does not require large investments of time, money, or effort to be successful.

## What to Compost?

Start the composting process with 50% green and 50% brown materials cut into pieces no larger than 1 inch in size. Mix and add water every 7-10 days. Your compost is ready to use when it's dark brown, crumbly, and smells like fresh turned soil.

### What to compost

- Yard materials
- Vegetable and fruit scraps
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Nut shells
- Eggshells
- Clean, unwaxed paper, such as newspaper
- Animal manure (not pet waste)

### What not to compost

- Meat or fish scraps, bones and packaging
- Dairy products (milk, cheese, egg yolks, etc.)
- Fats and oils or foods containing fats and oils
- Pet waste
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants

## Did You Know?

- Composting is a rich soil amendment that is produced by the breakdown of nitrogen and carbon-rich materials by microorganisms
- It adds organic matter to help soil absorb and retain water and nutrients
- It can protect plants from drought or freezing
- It can prevent erosion when compost is used as mulch
- Do not compost fats, pet droppings, or animal products. They will attract pests

## For More Information

*For further reading* check out these books available for you at the local library or a bookstore for more information and tips

*Easy Composters You Can Build*; Nick Noyes

• *Let it Rot: The Gardener's Guide to Composting*; Stu Campbell

• *The Rodale Book of Composting: Easy Methods for Every Gardener*; Debra Martin (Editor)

Or visit these great websites

[www.epa.gov/compost](http://www.epa.gov/compost)

[www.composting101.com](http://www.composting101.com)