

# Back Yard Composting

*The Natural Way to Recycle*

## How Can You Compost at home?

First step in composting at home is choosing a compost bin. This can be purchased or built to fit any space.

Second step is understanding the recipe to start and maintain your compost. To create good compost always add in **equal parts browns and greens**. Moisture is important as you should always keep your compost moist, but not flooded. Air or oxygen is also important for the microorganisms to decompose organic matter. To add oxygen, mix or poke holes into the compost at least once a week.

When choosing what you can compost you should **avoid** bones, cooking oils, dairy products, grease, weeds with mature seeds, treated wood, and meats.



## Different Ways to Reduce Organic Waste

If back yard composting is not possible, there are other ways that you can reduce the amount of organic waste entering the landfill. **Mulching the grass and leaves** back into lawns can help improve your lawn and soil. Residents can also take grass and leaves to the landfill for free of charge, where it will be added to the compost rows.

**Bokashi composting** is a simple way to compost in your own kitchen! It involves using a combination of inoculated bran and anaerobic digestion in a sealed bucket.

**Vermicomposting** using plastic storage containers. Using worms to breakdown organic materials such as food waste.

For more information on different types of composting visit the **Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Website** at [www.Saskwastereduction.ca/compost](http://www.Saskwastereduction.ca/compost).



### **Browns: Carbon Rich Material**

Dead Leaves  
Shredded Paper  
Saw dust (non-treated)  
Wood chips  
Straw  
Lint and Vacuum dust

### **Greens: Nitrogen Rich Material**

Fruits & vegetables  
Coffee grounds & tea bags  
Grass clippings  
Egg shells  
Weeds (before seeding)  
House plants

## What about foul odors?

A common misconception with compost is the belief that all compost has a foul odor, but in fact, a correctly managed compost should have a sweet smell while composting is occurring, and an earthy or soil like smell when compost is finished. **Too much greens (nitrogen) result in foul odors. Addition of browns (carbon) will reduce and help manage these foul odors.**

**Composting Tip:** The best brown product for controlling odors are dead leaves. Leaves can be collected in the fall time and be kept in a bag all summer without decomposing or causing a foul odor. If you notice a foul odor, just add leaves!



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[Yorkton.ca/waste](http://Yorkton.ca/waste)

Environmental Services Department

For additional information on Back Yard Composting visit [www.saskwastereduction.ca/compost](http://www.saskwastereduction.ca/compost)