

Worksheet: Outdoor Composting



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Composting is easy!

- All you need is ingredients in four categories: Browns, Greens, Air, and Water.
- Use twice as much brown material as green.
- Your compost pile should be at minimum (in feet): 3 x 3 x 3 and at maximum 5 x 5 x 5.
- Don't let your compost dry out. Add enough water to your compost mix to keep it as wet as a damp sponge. This helps the microbacteria break down waste.
- Turn your compost thoroughly to keep it aerated.
- Review the list below to learn what to add and what not to add to your compost heap.

Brown Materials Brown material is high in carbon and low in nitrogen. This is what keeps your compost from having an unpleasant odor. Use twice as much brown material as green.	Dry Leaves	YES		
	Straw and Hay	YES		
	Wood Chips*	YES		
	Saw Dust and Wood Shavings*	YES		
	Shredded Paper	YES		
	Dry Pine Needles	YES		
	Corrugated Board (no tape, waxy/slick coatings or adhesive labels)	YES		
	Dairy, Fish, Meat or fatty, oily or processed foods		NO	
	Animal Manures: Dog, Cat, Pig Manure		NO	

* If you choose to use CCA-treated wood for gardening purposes, do not allow sawdust or wood scraps to fall onto garden beds and do not put CCA sawdust in your compost pile. Reference link: [Penn State Extension](#)

Green Material Green material is high in nitrogen and low in carbon. Add half as much green material to the mix as you do brown material.	Vegetable and Fruit Scraps	YES		
	Eggshells	YES		
	Grass and Plant Clippings	YES		
	Coffee Grounds with Filter Paper	YES		
	Teabags	YES		
	Animal Manures: Cow, Horse, Sheep, Chicken, Rabbit	YES		

Notes or questions for your composting: