

# Composting Crossword

1. something that is brown and can only be composted when the animal that releases it only eats vegetables
2. a stronger paper like material that is brown and can be composted
4. your compost bin needs to be placed somewhere where there is a lot of

2. a type of fabric that can be composted
3. a type of food (like milk) that cannot be composted
5. you need more of these than greens to make sure your compost doesn't smell
6. something that your compost needs so it can be like a wet sponge
7. a category like browns but it contains food waste
8. a food vegetarians don't eat that cannot be composted

A line drawing of a compost bin labeled "COMPOST" at the bottom. Surrounding the bin are various organic waste items: a milk carton labeled "MILK" with a cow illustration and the text "A full milk carton" next to it; a banana peel; a whole apple; a slice of pizza; a piece of bread; a carrot; a newspaper labeled "NEWS"; a can of food; a piece of meat; a leaf; a piece of wood; a pile of grass; a piece of broccoli; a piece of a branch; and a small piece of a flower. The items are scattered around the bin, illustrating what can be composted.

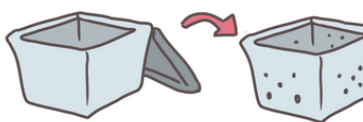
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# How to Make Your Own Compost Bin

 <https://youtu.be/IUS9149Tdlc>

- A helpful video to watch along!

1. Get a container of any kind, preferably with a lid
2. Drill holes into the container and lid
3. Add leaves, pieces of cardboard, and shredded paper (**any browns**) til the box is *almost* halfway full
4. Add a few small twigs and dried grasses (it should be halfway full now)
5. Add a layer of soil and stop when everything is covered
6. Put your vegetable scraps in (**any greens**)
7. Add more leaves or soil on top, now the box should be full
8. Water the bin thoroughly until it is 40-60% water
9. Put the lid on it and place it in a sunny area



*Halfway* *Full*

- smaller pieces will decompose faster, this also applies to greens
- any items you don't have *do not* need to be used as long as you reach the amount needed



## Greens

a good balance of 2-3x more browns than greens means your compost won't smell

- scraps of fruits and vegetables
- grass clippings
- coffee grounds
- plant trimmings
- seaweed

- eggshells
- tea leaves
- nut shells

## Browns

- paper towels without manmade products on them
- clean cardboard boxes (no labels) like Amazon boxes
- paper scraps
- fall leaves
- twigs or bark
- sawdust
- dryer lint
- newspapers
- pine needles
- straw
- corn stalks
- cotton fabric

## Exceptions

that can be composted

- Weeds without any seeds can be greens

- Poop or urine from animals that eat greens: cows, chickens, rabbits. These can be used as greens or in place of soil.

\*If urine is used, use less water because urine is stronger than water

- eggshells could cause salmonella so rinse them or compost them in gardens without food

## What Not to Compost

- meat
- fish
- grease
- big branches
- diseased plants
- weed seeds
- metals
- oils
- dairy
- poop
- produce stickers
- charcoal ash
- plastics

# Why You Should Compost

Composting can benefit you and the world. By composting, you can prevent more waste going into landfills. Currently, around a fourth of our landfills consist of compostable material. This food waste creates methane gas which is one of the largest proponents of global warming. Meanwhile, your garden can gain cheap nutrient rich soil. If you don't own a garden, you can still compost! Soil can be placed in houseplants or donated to farms, community gardens, and schools. Sometimes, you can even sell your compost. Compost can also help you save money on waste disposal.

## Frequently Asked Questions

When do you water your compost?

Depending on the climate, if it rains a lot there, water it less frequently. Whenever it's too dry when you're turning it, just add a bit of water!

When do you mix your compost?

Compost should be mixed once every week.

Do the seeds have to be removed?

No, the plants will not grow. Exception: weeds

When will my compost be done?

Compost is ready when it has a dark rich color to it. If done correctly, it will be done every few months.

Do I add more browns whenever I add food waste?

If your compost starts to stink, add more browns. When your compost looks extremely wet, then you've either got too much water or too many greens. On the other hand, if your compost looks too dry, you don't have enough water or you have too many browns

What if I haven't saved any food scraps yet?

You can go to your local supermarket and ask for scraps! I am sure they have plenty

How do I prevent animals from getting in my compost?

Use a lid and fasten it with a bungee cord

Can color printed paper be composted?

Color printed paper can definitely be composted!

*When in doubt, throw it out!*