

● ● ● | Trouble  
Shooting Guide

Problem: Bad Odour

Probable Cause: Too many greens

Solution: Add browns and mix.

Turn pile and top with soil.

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Problem: Smells like rotten eggs

Probable Cause: Not enough air

Solution: Turn pile for several days  
until odour is gone. Top with soil.

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Problem: Pile is not composting

Probable Cause: Too dry

Solution: Moisten with water until  
damp.

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Problem: unwelcomed visitors

Probable Cause: exposed food or  
wrong items added

Solution: Remove any meats, fats  
or dairy products. Bury food  
scraps and cover with soil.

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## Ways to Use Your Finished Compost

- Dig some compost into the soil before you plant.
- Sprinkle some screened compost onto your lawn and on the soil of houseplants.
- Use compost as mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture.
- Mix compost with other potting materials to start seedlings or to re-pot house plants.

Have any questions regarding the  
information in this pamphlet?

Please contact:

**BRUCE COUNTY  
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. BOX 398, 30 PARK STREET  
WALKERTON, ON N0G 2V0  
1-877-681-1291 ext. 4

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## From Garbage to Garden



## A Guide to Backyard Composting

# ● ● ● | COMPOSTING MADE EASY

Composting is an easy way to recycle and can be done right at home. Approximately 30 % of waste that ends up in our landfills are materials that could be composted.

## WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is a dark, earthy material which results from the natural decomposition of organic matter.



## WHY COMPOST?

To produce an excellent, free, soil conditioner which will improve your soil and the plants growing in it.

To reduce waste—composting kitchen and yard waste can reduce 20—30 % of your waste that would otherwise end up in your garbage.

## 3 STEPS TO COMPOSTING

Composting is a simple process that is easy to do right in your own backyard. When you are starting the composting process, pick a level spot for your backyard composter. A partially shaded spot is best. Loosen the soil under your bin before placing your bin in its new home, and fill in the bottom of your bin with soil. You are now ready to COMPOST!

How do you get the most out of backyard composting?

Follow these 3 easy steps:



### 1. ORGANIC STUFF

Always feed your bin equal amounts GREEN and BROWN. Start with a layer of brown then green and alternate as you fill your bin.



#### GREENS

Bread, Coffee Grinds & Filters, Egg Shells, Flowers, Fruit & Vegetable Scraps, Green Plant Trimmings, Leaves, Tea Bags, Grass (fresh), Bone Meal.

#### BROWNS

Dryer Lint, Grass Clippings (dried), Leaves (dry), Woodchips, Corn Cobs, Peat Moss, Soil.



\*Always bury your new scraps in the center of the pile under a new layer of soil.



## 2. MOISTURE

Keep your compost moist but not dripping wet. Use a cover to keep the pile from becoming too wet from rainfall. If the compost becomes too wet turn and loosen the pile adding dry materials. If the compost is too dry sprinkle with water to moisten.

## 3. AIR

Add air to your compost by turning it with a shovel or poking holes in the pile with a handle. This should be completed every 2 to 3 weeks.

## WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

- Meat, Bones, Fish
- Dairy Products
- Oils, Fats, Peanut Butter
- Dog & Cat Feces
- Diseased Plants, Crab Grass

