



THE TOWN OF VERNON HAS DEVELOPED A TOWN-WIDE FOOD WASTE PREVENTION AND FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

WHY COMPOSTING IS IMPORTANT



Composting is an easy action we can do to make a difference regardless of if you need homemade soil for a garden, or just to use in your yard. 25% of our trash is comprised of food wastes that could be composted. When our trash goes to a landfill, it releases large amounts of methane gases which negatively affect the Earth's atmosphere. Composting is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gases right in our own back yard.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME COMPOSTING:

- Choose the right materials. See below for composting bin suggestions:
 - 65 GALLON COMPOST BIN
 - Twin rotating chamber bin
 - 55 Gal. Dual Chamber Tumbling Composter
 - 110 Gal. 400 Recycled Plastic Compost Bin
- Select and prepare a convenient site. Think about a spot far enough from your home that it won't attract bugs and animals but close enough where it is accessible. Look for a level and well-drained area. Look for a sunny spot to trap solar heat, but also a place with some shelter from the freezing cold winds that could slow down the decaying process.
- Prepare your compost materials and build your pile
- Test to see if the compost is ready and then use!

Resources for getting started:

- 'The Real Dirt: The complete Guide to Backyard, Balcony and Apartment Composting' Book
- CT DEEP website for '*Composting and Organics Recycling.*'



Backyard Composting FAQ.pdf

WHAT CAN I COMPOST?

Yes

- Vegetable and fruit scraps
 - Eggshells
- Dry leaves, straw and dry hay
 - Coffee grounds and filters
 - Houseplants
 - Tea bags and leaves
 - Fresh/dried grass clippings
- Plant trimmings from your garden
 - Paper & shredded newspaper
- Woodchips/sawdust from untreated wood

No

- Meat and fish or bones
 - Dairy Products
- Fats, oily foods or grease
 - Animal Waste
 - Coal or charcoal ash
 - Seeds of weedy plants
- Anything treated with pesticides

Tips

- ✓ Materials breakdown faster if they are cut/ chopped into smaller pieces
- ✓ Turn your pile or bin often to keep it aerated
- ✓ Keep the pile moist (whether it is on the ground or in a bin)
- ✓ Bugs aerate the compost pile & they can help speed up the composting process
- ✓ They naturally occur in a healthy compost bin/pile
- ✓ Don't leave your compost pile near your house, especially if it is a ground pile. It can attract bugs and unwanted creatures.
- ✓ A turn style (off the ground) composter, will not attract many bugs, but it is still best kept away from the home.
- ✓ Be sure to include brown material at a 2:1 ratio. This can consist of materials such as leaves, twigs, dried plant material, etc. This will help keep bugs down because they are attracted to the decomposing fruits and vegetables.

If you are not interested in creating your own compost pile or using a bin, a local company called Blue Earth Compost, will collect your food scraps and take care of the 'dirty work.' [Click here for more information on the company.](#)



The Town of Vernon has established a fund to assist income-eligible residents with obtaining composting materials. For more information on how to start composting and determine eligibility, please contact the Town of Vernon Social Services Department at

(860) 870-3661.

