

Backyard Compost Bins

Information Handout



How to Set Up Your Backyard Composter

1. Assemble the Compost Bin

Follow the instructions provided from the company or on the company's website. There will be a link to the instructions on the County website as well.

2. Choose a Site for Your Composter

The ideal spot has partial to full shade, good water drainage, and easy access.

3. Install Your Composter

Remove any grass or plants growing where your composter will be placed. If worried about animals, consider digging in or adding chicken wire around the base.

4. Set Up a Food Scraps Container in Your Kitchen

Choose a preferably sealable container to place in your kitchen. Having a tight seal helps to discourage fruit flies and other pests.

5. Learn How to Use the Backyard Composter

Understanding how to manage your composter is important for successful composting. There is more information about composting on the County's website: TheCounty.ca

How to Manage Your Backyard Composter

The process of composting requires a balance of moisture, oxygen, and organic material.

1. Alternating 'Green' and 'Brown' Organic Material

Your compost bin will work best when alternating a mix of green (nitrogen-rich) material and brown (carbon-rich) material.

2. Chop Up Any Larger Scraps

Any larger scraps should be chopped into smaller pieces. This will speed up the decomposing process.

3. Stir the Material

Mix the new material into the existing pile using a compost turner, pitchfork or other garden tool. This adds oxygen.

4. Cover with a Handful of Old Leaves, Other Dried Yard Waste, or Soil

This will add carbon and reduce the chance of fruit flies and bad odors.

5. Make Sure it is Not Too Wet or Dry

When adding new material, check how wet the pile is. If too wet, mix and add more browns. If too dry, add water and mix. Make sure it stays about as wet as a damp sponge.

Visit manufacturerswebsite.ca for instructions on how to assemble your backyard composter.

*****Disclaimer: The County does not provide a warranty on the composter.**

Kitchen Browns

- ◇ Shredded newspaper or cardboard
- ◇ Coffee filters
- ◇ Stale bread
- ◇ Paper towels
- ◇ Dryer lint and hair

Yard Browns

- ◇ Grass trimmings (dry)
- ◇ Hay/straw
- ◇ Leaves
- ◇ Sawdust

Kitchen Greens

- ◇ Egg shells
- ◇ Fruit and vegetable scraps
- ◇ Coffee grounds and tea bags
- ◇ Rice and pasta
- ◇ Fruit pits

Yard Greens

- ◇ Plant trimmings, pine needles
- ◇ Flowers
- ◇ Grass trimmings
- ◇ Veggie garden

No meats, fish and bones, fatty foods (cheese, butter, oils, sauces), and no dog and cat feces. This can go in your green bin.

No diseased or insect-infected plants and no weeds with mature seeds. Most landfill sites in Prince Edward County will accept leaf and yard waste. Do research before visiting to see if that specific landfill does.

No coloured paper. This can go in the recycling.

No grass treated with herbicides or pesticides. No charcoal or coal ashes. No treated wood.

Composting Each Season

Spring: Stir well; add soil. Use finished compost in your lawn or garden.

Summer: Stir frequently; cover fresh material with leaves. If the compost looks dry, add water.

Autumn: Clean and empty finished material into your garden. Save some leaves for future use.

Winter: In colder temperatures, your compost will decompose slower. Let it fill up. Once spring comes it will all decompose rapidly.