

## WORKSHEET

# Composting

### How to build a compost bin at home, in your backyard:

1. Find a bin with a lid. It doesn't have to be expensive. Maybe a small trash can or storage container. Cut out the bottom of the container and put it on the ground so that when you open the top you see the soil at the bottom.
2. Find a shady place in your yard for your compost bin to live.
3. Prepare a level spot on the ground for your bin. If you can, dig away whatever grass or gravel that might be there and make sure you get straight to the dirt.
4. Dig a little deeper if you can. At least 4 inches or so. Bury the base deeper than the ground so rodents don't sneak under the bottom for a free meal.
5. Gather some sticks to put at the bottom of the bin near the ground. This will give the organic matter some **OXYGEN** and room to breathe.



Now you are ready to start composting! What do you put in it?

We need only TWO THINGS!

## CARBON + NITROGEN = 2 :1

Use about two parts of things that would be considered on the brown team and one part of things from the green team and watch the process happen!

### 2 Parts **Brown Team = CARBONS:**

- Cut up cardboard
- Egg Cartons
- Shredded paper
- Dry grass
- Straw
- Shredded newspaper (nothing glossy)
- Ripped up pizza boxes
- Torn up junk mail
- Peanut shells
- Wood Chips



### 1 Part **Green Team = NITROGENS**

- Green grass or garden clippings
- Vegetable Food scraps
- Egg Shells
- Coffee Grinds
- Tea Bags

#### **THINGS TO AVOID:**

- Citrus peels (Worms hate citrus!)
- Meat, wheat, dairy scraps (or you will be inviting vermin to dinner)

**TIP:** The smaller you cut things up the better and quicker it will break down.

**TIP:** Use your nose! If it's stinky you need to add more brown stuff. It doesn't smell at all, it is probably too dry. Just add a little water

**TIP:** Stir up your compost once a week with a garden fork or something that will allow you to lift it and stir so it gets **OXYGEN**.

**FUN FACT:** Your compost can reach temperatures from between 120 and 170 degrees fahrenheit. During the process, smell it and feel how warm it is getting.

It will take your compost around 4 weeks to break down into soil. Hopefully you will have some worm visitors to help the work go faster!

After your compost ingredients reach the top of the container, you can start a second compost and leave the other to “cook.” When the first one is done use the compost in your vegetable garden, on your trees or your flower garden. Your plants will be singing your praises!

