

Fast Facts: Backyard Composting

Residents ARE permitted to compost if they comply with the following:

- Composting must be done in the backyard
- Compost bins/piles must be at least five (5) feet from lot lines
- Compost bins/piles may not be within a Riparian Buffer Zone
 - Must not be within the flood zone of a waterway
 - For waterways with drainage areas of less than one (1) square mile, the Riparian Buffer Zone is thirty (30) feet from the top of each riverbank
 - For waterways with drainage areas of greater than one (1) square mile, the Riparian Buffer Zone is sixty (60) feet from the top of each riverbank
- Compost bins/piles may not be larger than 5% of the parcel area or higher than six (6) feet tall
- Compost must be enclosed or contained
- All materials used for composting must be generated on-site
- No meat or dairy may be in the compost
- Compost odor may not be frequent, continuous, or repetitive at and beyond property lines

Some composting tips:

- Make sure your compost pile gets plenty of sunlight and adequate moisture
 - A good rule of thumb: if you squeeze a handful of compost and it drips more than one drop of water, it's too wet!
- For fast compost, use 2/3 browns and 1/3 greens
 - Turn the pile every 1 to 2 weeks
 - Make sure the organic materials are shredded to small pieces first
 - Your compost should take 6 weeks to 4 months
- For slow compost, use any mix of greens and browns
 - Your compost should take 12 to 24 months
- If your compost pile has an ammonia odor, there may be too many greens. Add some browns!
- If your compost has a high temperature (>140 degrees) it may not have enough oxygen or too much nitrogen. Add some browns or turn the pile
- If your compost has a low temperature, (<90 degrees) it may be too dry, have not enough oxygen, or be too small of a pile. Add water, add greens, or increase the pile size
- If pests are attracted to your compost pile, bury the food waste beneath soil or dense brown waste

For further information
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