

# Troubleshooting

Symptoms	Problems	Solutions
Bad Odor	Not enough air, or too much green material	Mix the pile, or add more brown material
Composts too slowly	Not enough water	Moisten and mix the pile.
Pile is damp and warm only in center	Pile is too small	Collect more material and mix it into the pile.
Pile is damp and sweet-smelling but no heat	Lack of green material	Mix in more green material like fresh grass clippings, yard trimmings and weeds.

## Other Resources:

EPA Website:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/compost.htm>

Earth 911 website:

<http://www.earth911.org/master.asp>

# HOME COMPOSTING

## A Heap of Benefits



Fort Campbell Environmental Division Pollution Prevention Branch

Bldg 2186 13 1/2 St & Indiana

Fort Campbell, KY 42223

(270)798-9762/9773

Visit us online @

<http://www.campbell.army.mil/envdiv/SWRMenu.htm>

# Why compost?

The best method for getting rid of yard waste is also the easiest. Composting is nature's way of turning yard waste into a valuable soil conditioner.



### Composting:

**Saves you money** by reducing the need for expensive bags and commercial soil additives.

**Helps your garden and lawn** by improving the fertility and health of your soil.

**Saves water** by helping the soil hold moisture and reducing water runoff.

**Benefits the environment** by recycling valuable organic resources and extending the life of landfills.

## What Can You Compost?

### Do Compost

- Grass clippings, leaves
- Weeds & garden debris
- Small brush, twigs
- Sawdust & wood chips
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Nutshells

### Do Not Compost

- Meat, bones, fat
- Cooked food
- Dairy products
- oils
- Whole branches, logs
- Pet or human waste
- Charcoal briquette ash
- Sawdust or ash from treated wood

# Laws

Yard trimmings and food waste constitute 23 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream. That's a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could become useful and environmentally beneficial compost instead. Composting organic materials that have been diverted from landfills ultimately avoids the production of methane and leachate formulation in the landfills. Additionally, compost has the ability to prevent pollutants in stormwater runoff from reaching surface water resources.

### In TN & KY, it is illegal:

to burn Household trash. It is also illegal to burn leaves, branches and trees not grown on site. Recycling and composting are alternatives to open burning recommended by the Division of Air Pollution Control. Consider recycling paper and cardboard, cans and plastics and composting yard trimmings and leftover food scraps.

If you have any questions about waste reduction, reuse, recycling or composting please call our office or check out the other resources listed in this pamphlet.



**Fort Campbell Solid Waste/Recycling Program**

**Bldg 2186 131/2 Street & Indiana Ave.**

**Fort Campbell, KY 42223**

**Phone: 270-798-9762/9769**

[www.campbell.army.mil/envdiv/index.htm](http://www.campbell.army.mil/envdiv/index.htm)

Recycle Center: Bldg 5225 Desert Storm  
Phone: 270-798-4527

Convenience Center Located at the intersection of Stillwell Rd and Airborne St:  
Phone: 270-798-5695

## Composting Made Simple

Composting is a lot easier than you may think. Organic material breaks down in nature all the time.

Composting is just a method of speeding up the process!

Most compost bin designs are so simple they can be built in a few hours. Once you gather your yard waste and form it into a pile, you'll only spend time conducting occasional maintenance. Simply watch nature do it's work.



### Tools

Basic gardening tools; pitchfork, rake and shovel.

### Materials

Compost bins can be built with inexpensive materials like snow fencing, woven wire, or used cinder blocks or lumber

### Soil

You don't need store-bought soil or potting soil to compost. Just place one inch of soil from your yard or garden to start the composting process.

## Composting Bins

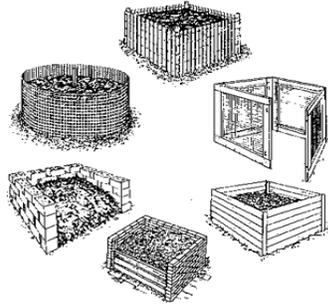
### Three Simple Compost Bins

#### Fence Bin

Buy a length of prefabricated fence and fasten two-by-fours to each corner to form a square. (For a 4'X4'X4' compost pile, purchase 16 feet of fencing.)

#### Woven Wire Bin

Purchase length of woven wire & fasten the ends with several small chain snaps to make a circle. For a 4'X4'X4' compost pile, purchase 16 feet of woven wire



#### Block or Brick Bin

Pile bricks, cement blocks, or rocks to form three sides of a square container. Lay the blocks without mortar, leaving spaces between to let air circulate.

## Uses For Finished Compost

Compost is ready to harvest when it is a crumbly, earthy smelling humus.



If some pieces are not decomposed, you can sift those out and use them to start a new batch. Compost improves soil structure, holds in moisture and plant nutrients, and promotes strong, healthy root systems for plant growth. Here are the most common ways to use compost:

### Mix Into Soil:

- Mix 3-6 inches of compost into the lawn soil before seeding for grass.
- Mix 3-6 inches of compost into garden soil before planting
- Mix compost into the soil of exposed slopes to help fight erosion.



### Use As Mulch:

Add compost as a mulch around flowers, shrubs, & trees to discourage weeds, help soil retain moisture, & protect roots from alternate freezing & thawing during winter months.



## Composting Recipes

*Green Yard Waste (nitrogen):* grass clippings, green yard trimmings & weeds (no seed heads).

*Brown Yard Waste (carbon):* leaves, small brush & twigs (1/2" diameter or less), woody plants pruning, sawdust & newsprint (use both sparingly)

*Compostable Food Scraps:* fruit & vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, nutshells.

*Other compostable materials:* hair clippings, feathers, straw, manure, bonemeal, and bloodmeal.

*Do Not Compost:* meat, fish, poultry, dairy, fats, human/pet waste, weeds w/developed seed heads, & plants infected w/disease.

Recipe:

*Begin with layer of soil, add 4" layer of leaves, add 2" layer of grass, repeat until pile is about 4' tall, then add kitchen scraps.*

There is no set method for building a compost pile. Piles can be built in layers to ensure proper proportions of carbon to nitrogen; however, the layers should be thoroughly mixed after the pile is built. Be sure to water the pile. It should be as damp as a wrung out sponge. The more frequently you turn the pile the faster the material will compost. The center of the pile should generate temperatures of 140° – 160° F at its center. Turning the pile maintains the temperature and ensures all material will be exposed to the center heat. When the compost is finished the pile will no longer heat. Small amounts of fresh material should be added to the center of the pile; however, it is better to add fresh material to a new pile.