



## 10 Tips & Guidance for Home Composting

Composting is a great way to reduce waste, enrich your garden soil, and contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle. Here are some steps and considerations to keep in mind:

### 1. Choose a Composting Method:

- ⌘ **Backyard Composting:** This involves creating a compost pile or using a compost bin in your yard.
- ⌘ **Indoor Composting:** If you lack outdoor space, consider vermicomposting (using worms) or Bokashi composting (fermentation) indoors.

### 2. Select a Compost Bin:

- ⌘ Choose a compost bin that suits your available space and needs. There are various options, including open piles, enclosed bins, tumblers, and more.

### 3. Build the Compost Pile/Bin:

- ⌘ Layering: Alternate between green (nitrogen-rich) and brown (carbon-rich) materials. Greens include fruit/vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and grass clippings. Browns include leaves, straw, and cardboard.
- ⌘ Chop or shred larger materials to speed up decomposition.

### 4. Maintain the Compost:

- ⌘ Turn the pile regularly (every 1-2 weeks) to aerate it and speed up decomposition.
- ⌘ Monitor moisture levels. The compost should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge.
- ⌘ Balance the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio (C:N ratio) for efficient decomposition. Aim for roughly 25-30 parts carbon to 1 part nitrogen.

### 5. What to Compost:

- ⌘ Green Materials: Fruit/vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, eggshells.
- ⌘ Brown Materials: Leaves, straw, paper, cardboard, sawdust (untreated wood).
- ⌘ Certified home compostable packaging, like Biyo, up to 10% of the overall mix.
- ⌘ Avoid: Dairy, meat, oily foods, pet waste, diseased plants, and invasive weeds.

## 6. Worm Composting (Vericomposting):

- ⌘ Use red worms (*Eisenia fetida*) in a suitable container.
- ⌘ Feed worms with fruit/vegetable scraps and small amounts of shredded paper.
- ⌘ Harvest worm castings (compost) for your garden.

## 7. Indoor Composting (Bokashi):

- ⌘ Ferment kitchen waste using Bokashi bran to accelerate decomposition.
- ⌘ After fermentation, bury the waste in the soil or compost it in an outdoor bin.

## 8. Troubleshooting:

- ⌘ Foul Odors: Aerate the pile, adjust moisture levels, and avoid adding too many wet materials.
- ⌘ Pile Not Heating Up: Check the C:N ratio and add more nitrogen-rich materials.
- ⌘ Pests: Keep a lid on your compost bin, avoid adding meat/dairy, and bury food waste well.

## 9. Harvesting Compost:

- ⌘ Compost is ready when it's dark, crumbly, and earthy smelling.
- ⌘ Sift out any larger materials that haven't fully decomposed.

## 10. Using Compost:

- ⌘ Mix compost into garden soil for improved structure, water retention, and nutrient content.
- ⌘ Top-dress lawns or use compost as mulch around plants.

Remember that composting is a gradual process, and it may take a few months to a year to produce usable compost.

Patience and consistent care will yield great results for both your garden and the environment!

