Keyword: [composting toilet]

Composting Toilets As A Means To Resolve Water Concerns  
By [Mike Selvon](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mike_Selvon) Platinum Quality Author

Recent generations have probably never given much thought to a simple device called the composting toilet, and most, no doubt, would prefer not to linger long on the subject. But composting toilets have long been used throughout human history. They have a much longer history than the common plumbing and sewage systems that we have all become accustomed to using in our modern civilization.

Those in the Western world are generally surprised to learn that even today there are many kinds of composting toilets available on the market. They come in varieties that are designed to accommodate varying cultures, customs and climates in different parts of the globe. The different kinds of composting toilet units also vary considerably in pricing as well.

The bottom line is that composting toilets are simply devices that facilitate the composting process of human feces and this practice can be said to be as old as the hills. It is nothing more and nothing less than Mother Nature's way of recycling human waste components, just as it does with the waste of other living beings on the planet, and reintegrating it with the soil as part of the cycle of life.

Contrary to common opinions on the matter, or perhaps based on unpleasant experiences, composting toilets can be very hygienic, very clean and do not smell when operated correctly. They also help to save enormous amounts of water and in many areas of the world this is extremely important. In fact, in a global community where it is becoming more important to conserve water, these toilets could benefit everyone if used more widely.

For instance, consider a typical American family that uses a flush toilet. It has been estimated that a family of four can flush about 100,000 liters of water each year, just to deal with their human feces.

And, this water goes into the sewage system which has the potential to contaminate ground water sources. But, compostable toilets actually protect both surface and ground water supplies from this kind of contamination.

These kinds of toilets are most often constructed with two separate chambers which facilitates operation and also ease of construction. The two chambers of the composting toilet are used alternately. Once full, the one chamber is closed and allowed to decompose while the other fills.

When fully decomposed, the contents are removed and the chamber is ready to be filled again. Each of the chambers has a separate opening that allows for the removing of the mature compost which is non-odorous and which can be used in organic farming practices.

Composting toilets work very well in settings for a family home, and they have even been successfully utilized for larger facilities as well. In the case of use for schools and other public buildings, the compostable toilets are built in a cluster.

However, the experts say that it is important to be sure that communities that use this type of waste recycling are well-educated, trained and motivated to use them properly.

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| A free audio gift awaits you at our portal site, where you can enrich your knowledge further about [composting toilets](http://composting.niche-education.com/Composting-Toilets.php). Your comment is much appreciated at our [recycling](http://www.mynicheportal.com/home-garden/solving-water-issues-with-composting-toilets) blog.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Mike\_Selvon](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mike_Selvon) |

A Look At Composting and Composting Toilets  
By [Tanner Larsson](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Tanner_Larsson) Platinum Quality Author

Sometimes known as biological toilets and waterless toilets, composting toilet systems are useful when there is an urgent necessity to control the composting of toilet paper, food wastes and excrement. Composting toilet is different from the septic system because a composting toilet system is depended on conditions of unsaturated level such as the materials cannot be immersed completely in water. When operating to its full capacity, composting toilet is competent to easily break down the waste into somewhere about 10 to 30 percent of its actual volume.

Humus is the resulting end-product. Known for being a stable soil-like material, humus is required to be either buried or it has to be properly removed by a licensed seepage hauler who is familiar with the state as well as the prevailing local regulations in the U.S. but in several other countries, humus can be used as an effective soil conditioner on edible crops.

When we discuss the primary objective underlying the composting toilet system, the answer is simple: to destroy or immobilize any and every organism that is capable of causing pathogens or any kind of human disease. Composting is a savior of sorts because it ensures that the waste products don't contaminate the immediate or distant environment or harm the human inhabitants in any way.

The system should naturally be consistent with proper as well as good sanitation so that it minimizes effectively any possibility of human contact with the kind of unprocessed excrement that is being treated, Minimizing odor and producing a dry end product that doesn't pose any kind of exposure to disease vectors like flies is a matter of importance as well.

The secondary objective, as we all know, is to transform the nutrients that are present in human excrement into forms that are stable because these are then fully oxidized and can therefore, be used effectively as a kind of soil conditioner for plants as well as trees.

Here are some of the main components of a composting toilet:  
  
-a composting reactor that gets connected to one or more of the dry or the micro-flush toilets;  
  
-a screened exhaust system so that odors, water vapors, carbon dioxide, and so on can be minimized;   
  
-some type of ventilation so that oxygen is provided to the aerobic organisms that are present in the composter;   
  
-a proper way to drain and manage whatever turns out to be leachate or excess liquid;   
  
-process controls, like mixers and   
  
-an access door that ensures the removal of the final end-product.

With these tips, you have now understood what [composting](http://howtomakecompost.net/composting.html) toilet is all about.

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| For More information on composting and making [compost](http://HowToMakeCompost.net) for gardening and landscaping, visit our compost resource site: <http://HowToMakeCompost.net>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Tanner\_Larsson](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Tanner_Larsson) |

Get Green and Get Going - Enviro-Friendly RVs  
By [Nelson Stewart](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Nelson_Stewart)

RVing isn't necessarily known as the most environmentally friendly activity on the planet, but as many RV owners can attest, living in an RV is a great way to experience our beautiful environment, and it's an affordable way to enjoy your retirement. Burning some fuel may be unavoidable, but there are many ways to lower your impact (and some that will save you money at the same time).

Although you may find any number of approaches to greening your recreational ride, the biggest savings will be in your power and sewage systems and in your fuel consumption.

Composting toilets are available for RVs (and cabins and boats) - these are ideal for places that can't connect to sewer or septic or in areas prone to drought. Composting toilets use significantly less water than traditional systems (some use none at all!). Installing one in the RV means you won't have to worry about pump outs, and you will lower your pollution quotient significantly.

Properly installed, composting toilets have no odor and are already being used in public highway facilities in Sweden. The technology makes use of aerobic decomposition - using oxygen to speed up the process, microbes work at the solids while the 90 percent water content evaporates through a venting system. This eventually reduces solids to one to two percent of the initial volume, producing soil instead of sewage. Composting toilets come either as self contained units, which can be rather large, or as systems that flush to a separate composting unit.

Another green idea is to harness the power of the sun. You can choose a portable solar kit for your RV or mount a unit right on the vehicle, depending on your power needs. Since solar panels produce DC power, the same system used by RVs, there is no need for conversion. This makes RVs a particularly good application for solar technology. With the right system you can keep your batteries fully charged and enjoy your electricity without plugging in.

If these changes feel like too much, don't despair: there are smaller, common sense steps anyone in an RV can take to protect the environment. By parking your RV for the season, you can enjoy affordable living and make some new friends without burning much fuel . There are plenty of RV parks that will allow you to enjoy your vacation in a community setting. Alternative fuel sources, such as biodiesel, can also provide a lower impact vacation, but check with your engine manufacturer before use.

Of course you should be aware of your surroundings and always use RV designated campsites when on the road. Rather than driving, bring your bike along to explore natural areas - this will also lower your fuel consumption.

Use environmentally friendly, non-toxic products on board. Cut down on disposable products, recycle your packaging (even if it means packing it home) and dispose of your garbage properly.

Combining the composting toilet, solar power system and alternate fuels with a little common sense will have you touring without a trace - your RV will be practically off the grid. Making a few small changes can lower your impact significantly and help contribute to a healthier environment for us all.

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| Palm Gardens [Arizona RV Park](http://www.palmgardensonline.com/rvs.php), your premiere choice for [Mesa Arizona retirement](http://www.palmgardensonline.com/) living. If you're looking for luxury RV living, we offer a warm location with a great atmosphere and abundant amenities. Check us out at PalmGardensOnline.com.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Nelson\_Stewart](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Nelson_Stewart) |

You Can Actually Save Money With Organic Waste Recycling  
By [Mike Selvon](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mike_Selvon) Platinum Quality Author

There is no longer any doubt that landfills are rapidly filling and nearing capacity and that the price of properly disposing of garbage and sewage is on the rise. In some areas, some relief has been brought about by organic waste recycling efforts. In addition, this kind of recycling of organic material can also help reduce the dangers of ground water contamination and can help organic farmers prepare soil that is healthier for growing.

According to researchers, large cities and substantial animal-raising facilities end up wasting tons and tons of natural resources every day, while polluting lakes, rivers and oceans when they allow their organic refuse, manure and sewage to be discarded. Experts say that a much better use of this material is to regard it as what it really is, a form of wealth that is being squandered. This waste of significant natural resources can be tapped into with proper organic recycling efforts.

Instead of spending huge sums of money to handle, treat, transport and store such waste, many people say this money could be better used to set up ways to improve organic waste recycling. This has the potential to transform a major expense for most municipalities into a new source of income while also helping to cleanup the environment.

A recent report that studied the issue noted that landfills are nearing capacity in many countries around the globe and that the organic waste material that is simply allowed to rot ends up releasing methane gasses into the environment and leaching acids into groundwater systems. The report also indicated that there are 13 US states that are expected to be completely out of landfill capacity in ten years or less, which means that recycling options must be seriously considered.

One researcher pointed out that municipalities in all industrialized nations spend massive amounts of taxpayers' money to get rid of valuable organic nutrients. This is a bad habit. He goes on to say that with some careful thought and a changed perspective on recycling composting programs, these cities could readily turn their organic waste into a revenue steam that would benefit the environment and significantly relieve the taxpayers' burden.

The technology and the systems are already available, and are in use in many other areas. In the province of Tanum, Sweden, a low-water consumption composting toilet system has been instituted.

This system uses only one seventh the amount of water that is used in traditional flush toilet systems and also eliminates the maintenance of extensive sewage systems and treatments plants. In addition, this method of recycling waste converts the organic sewage and garbage into viable compost products that are both usable and suitable for selling.

Once organic waste recycling is established in an area, the sewage waste from municipalities and from animal producers goes through a waste treatment process to make the material safe for use in organic gardens and farms. It has also been estimated that the compost produced by this use of organic waste could provide as much as 15 percent of the nutrients for soil treatment that is now being supplied by fertilizers.

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| A free audio gift awaits you at our portal site, where you can enrich your knowldege further about [waste recycling](http://composting.niche-education.com/Waste-Recycling.php). Your comment is much appreciated at our [recycling](http://www.mynicheportal.com/home-garden/saving-with-organic-waste-recycling) blog.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Mike\_Selvon](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mike_Selvon) |

If You've Gotta Go, Use An Eco-Toilet  
By [Vicki Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) Platinum Quality Author

Have you ever come across the inconvenient problem of needing to go to the bathroom out in the woods or during camping? Who hasn't?? It's a problem faced by all, even for those of you who *don't camp*. But anyway, without getting into gross details, there is a solution available for those who don't feel like going out into the woods and digging a hole in the ground. That solution my friends, is a portable, ecologically friendly toilet.

Environmentally friendly toilets, ecologically friendly toilets, or even eco-toilets for short, are innovative inventions that make doing your business easy, clean and friendly to the environment. As mentioned before these toilets are usually portable and are ideal for camping trips. Some companies even boast that you can use them for other outdoor activities where a bathroom wouldn't be readily available, such as hunting or fishing, and that you can even use them in emergency situations or disaster preparedness.

The thing that separates eco-toilets from the regular household toilet other than the fact that it's portable is that you use a biodegradable bag to dispense your, business in. Since the bags are designed to be biodegradable, they are in turn perfectly acceptable to use for composting. If you do decide to use these biodegradable bags for composting, you should definitely keep in mind that whatever waste you may have in these bags will take as many as 40 days to decompose fully to a humus state only if they are placed in a controlled composting environment. If you are a novice to composting, then I wouldn't recommend that you try this until you've done more research and are confident enough in what you are doing.

Whether the toilet will be used during camping, outdoor activities or even during emergency situations, it's always nice to know that there is an alternative to digging a hole in the ground and squatting to do your dirty work. This much more environmentally conscious alternative reduces water consumption, usually comes with biodegradable bags, is portable and easy to use, what more could you ask for? Sorry folks, toilet paper not included.

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| For a wide selection in [chipper shredders](http://www.composters.com/main_gar.html) and [lawn sweepers](http://www.composters.com/docs/lawncare.html), be sure to stop by Composters.com.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Vicki\_Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) |

How to Green Up Your Lifestyle and Save Money  
By [Bill Bailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Bill_Bailey)

Unless you live in a cave on a remote island, without any method of communicating with the outside world, you will know that global warming and resource depletion are environmental issues that are not about to go away.

The environment has steadily moved its way up everyone's agenda as we are more conscious about recycling and the amount of energy and water we waste.

With so much information bombarding our senses on environmental issues, there's no doubt about it, understanding how best to 'green up' our lifestyle can be difficult and confusing.

We can all learn a lesson from big business, which has realised that by applying some commonsense to how they operate, they can improve their image, satisfy the demands of increasingly 'eco-aware' shareholders, and meet the increasing 'green' demands of customers by making changes to many of the products we buy from them. However, the key factor with business is improving their 'bottom-line'. If being greener cost them more, they would be highly unlikely to make changes.

For those of us that care about trying to 'do our bit' for the environment, but not necessarily classifying ourselves as 'rainbow warriors' or 'tree huggers', we face a dilemma. What can we do to make a difference, without going so far as building a composting toilet in our gardens?

There is nothing wrong about modeling our approach to being greener on how the big corporations are approaching the matter. Essentially the key way they are doing this is by cutting out waste to become more efficient.

Here are three top tips on how to green up your lifestyle and save money.

**1: Reduce the Amount of Food You Throw-away**

In the UK, 30% of all the food we buy is thrown away. The food waste will generally end up in landfill, where as it degrades turns into a greenhouse gas about 19 times more potent than the carbon dioxide everyone associates with global warming.

There are a number of reasons why we throw away so much of the food we buy. When food reaches 'best before' date, there is no need to consign it to the rubbish bin. Best before is a 'quality' cut off point set by the manufacturers. If the food has been stored properly it will still be edible some time after that date.

We often buy too much food at the supermarket, possibly due to those irresistible BOGOF offers (buy one get one free). Write a list and try sticking to it.

Most of us have our fridges set at the wrong temperature. For optimum performance they should be set between 3-5 degrees Celsius.

If you apply the 'bottom-line' rule, it is clear that if you throw-away 30% of the food you buy, you are wasting 30% of your money.

Do a quick calculation to see how much you are throwing away each year. If you spend £80 per week on food for you and your family then you're wasting £1,248 per year of your hard-earned cash.

**2: Improve the Energy Efficiency of Your Home**

Energy efficiency in the home is all about reducing waste.

If your home is poorly insulated, e.g.: little or no loft insulation; has un-insulated cavity walls, or draughty doors and windows, then you are literally throwing your money away by helping to heat the outside of your house!.

Call your local Council and ask for energy efficiency for advice. If you can't get assistance there, contact a registered and approved insulation company and ask for free survey of your property. There are usually grants available to assist off-setting the cost.

If you run your central heating with an old boiler, you will need to replace it at some point. When it finally expires, ensure that the replacement boiler is not 'over-sized' for you property, as this will cost you money in the long-run, as it will not be operating efficiently.

Make sure you have programmer and room thermostat fitted to control your boiler. Thermostatic radiators valve will also help save you money and help control the temperature in your home more effectively.

Take a look at the insulation on your hot water tank. If it is poorly insulated with ill-fitting jacket, have a replacement fitted.

Fit low energy lighting where possible. The quality, look and performance of low energy lighting is improving all the time. Fit low energy lighting to as many lighting points as possible, e.g. in the hall, bedrooms, bathrooms, outside, cloakrooms, landing.

You will be surprised how much money you can save by investing in making improvements to the energy efficiency of your home.

On a four bedroom detached house built in the early 1980's with some loft insulation and the original boiler, you could save £400 per year on fuel bills by increasing the loft insulation, installing cavity wall insulation, fitting low energy lights and replacing the boiler with more efficient model.

**3: Replace Your Gas Guzzler**

With price of a barrel of oil spiraling upwards, there has never been a more important time for us to look at the fuel efficiency of the car we drive.

With petrol at over £6 per gallon you do not need to be Albert Einstein to work out that by looking to improve the fuel efficiency of the car we drive can save us some serious money.

If you drive a car that manages 35 miles to the gallon and you drive 10,000 miles per annum, then your fuel costs will be about £1,715 per year at current petrol prices.

When you replace your car and buy a model that achieves 45 miles to the gallon then you will save about £400 in a year.

There are lots more green measures you can take, each requiring a small change in your lifestyle and personal habits. How far you go is upto you, but by addressing these three issues first, you will make a difference to the environment and save money at the same time.

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| Bill Bailey is freelance writer on finance, cars, travel, computers and shopping. More of Bill's articles offering red hot tips and advice can be found at <http://www.schnafflehound.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Bill\_Bailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Bill_Bailey) |

Alternatives to Flush Toilets and Septic Systsems - A Guide  
By [Lawrence Losoncy](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lawrence_Losoncy) Platinum Quality Author

Information is available on the Internet for anyone researching alternatives to flush toilets, septic systems and hookup. Most of these products and technologies have been designed to address one or both of the two central problems presented by flushing away human waste.

Problem one is the use of water to flush waste. A single flush can use up to eight gallons of water, with a household of four people using more than two hundred gallons a day just to flush the toilet. **Low-flow toilets** address this problem by reducing the amount of water used and increasing the velocity of the flush. **Waterless toilets** eliminate the use of water altogether.

Problem two is when the ground cannot properly handle human waste at a given site or in a given watershed area that would otherwise use a septic system. Categories of products and systems addressing this problem include advanced treatment systems, microbiotic treatment systems, portable potties, holding tanks, lagoon systems, evaportranspiration systems, chemical toilets, digestor tanks, composting toilets, incinerating toilets and evaporative toilets.

**Advanced treatment systems** and **microbiotic treatment systems** improve on septic systems. With more treatment the waste is turned into a safer discharge, doing on site what waste treatment plants do for sewage.

**Portable toilets/chemical toilets** simply collect the waste in small tanks that have a substantial amount of liquid chemicals pre-loaded for the purpose of killing pathogens and controlling odor. The tanks are then pumped and trucked away for disposal or drained into septic systems or sewers. Variations of these are also used in RV's, boats, trains and planes.

**Holding tanks** are large tanks sunk into the ground. They are pumped periodically and are typically used for large public facilities such as rest stops and public parks.

**Lagoon systems** are ponds that collect sewage. Solids settle to the bottom of the pond and the liquids evaporate. These are widely used by small towns, campgrounds, resort areas, recreation areas and clusters of homes.

**Evapotranspiration systems** put liquid waste out on top of the ground for evaporation as well as absorption by trees, shrubs, plants and grass.

**Digestor tanks** collect and break down all waste and trash, producing both methane gas that can be used for fuel, and humus.

**Composting toilets** collect human waste and turn it into humus.

**Incinerating toilets** burn the waste, reducing it to a fine ash.

**Evaporating toilets** evaporate the waste. Depending on the methodology, these either reduce or eliminate the amount of waste needing to be pumped.

Three factors figure into the evaluation process of these products and systems. They are appropriateness, cost of system and cost of operating.

**Is the system appropriate?** Systems requiring water won't work where there is no running water or the ground won't perc. Systems not allowed by the local codes also get ruled out unless a waiver is granted. (In many cases a waiver will be granted.) Systems too small or too large for the anticipated usage should be ruled out. Systems that cannot stand up to local conditions, such as freezing, or to intermittent use such as seasonal cabins, would also be ruled out. For example, aerobic systems that spray treated waste need a constant supply of waste to treat because otherwise the bacteria they require will not multiply sufficiently to do the job.

**Cost.** In computing costs of a system be sure to factor in labor and any additional material required, such as sand or gravel. With septic systems the greater the amount of leech lines required, the greater willl be the amount of needed land and the cost of the leech lines.

**Operational costs.** How much power, chemicals and system maintenance will be required? Are there pumping and disposal fees? Do any components need periodic replacing? How long will the system last? Can the system be left unattended and unused for extended periods of time without needing servicing to start up and resume proper functioning? Does the system need to be winterized?

Most professionals in the sanitation industry will tell you that proper sanitation can be provided for any situation. But remember, the advice is no better than the information you provide. So, ask and seek, don't be bashful!

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| Losoncy is the president of Clean Up America, Inc., a company that markets a new type of evaporative sanitation system known as the Eloo. To learn more about Eloos go to  <http://www.ElOO.US>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lawrence\_Losoncy](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lawrence_Losoncy) |

Two Ways to Save Water in an Energy Efficient Home  
By [Jeremy Bonin](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jeremy_Bonin)

Many times we think of energy only as heating and cooling systems or providing electricity to our homes for televisions and other appliances. We fail to understand how much energy it takes to run other systems in the home.

For instance, a great deal of energy is required to deliver and treat the water we use every day in our homes. How much? According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of energy it takes to treat and supply the water we use *every day* is equivalent to the electricity needed t power more than 5 million homes *for a year!*  With 23 states currently experiencing drought conditions and water shortages, water management is a responsible action to take, especially when you're planning to build a green home. *Two money and energy-saving strategies which can be easily incorporated into an energy efficient home design are:*

1.  ***Reduce overall water usage***in the home by specifying low-flow water fixtures, low-flush or composting toilets, installing aerators on all taps, and installing low-flow showerhead nozzles.

     2. Specify a plumbing system that ***reuses grey water***(wastewater from domestic usage such as dish washing, laundry and bathing) for flushing toilets, watering lawns, etc. (note: some grey water systems require approval by most local building jurisdictions, your architect will verify this prior to design).

By implementing a few simple actions to use water more efficiently, the average homeowner can reduce their water and sewer bills by one third, a significant savings! According to the [US Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/water/benefits.htm), "If all U.S. households installed water-efficient appliances, the country would save more than 3 trillion gallons of water and more than $18 billion dollars per year."

It's easy to incorporate energy efficiency in your home design. Start by talking to a green architect about your goals and ask questions about what strategies will work for your climate, budget, and home design.

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| About the Author: Jeremy Bonin, AIA NCARB LEED AP, a principal partner of Bonin Architects & Associates, is an award-winning green architect and the author of TIMBER FRAMES: Designing Your Custom Home. With a special interest in sustainable design and green homes, structural insulated panels (SIPs), as well as timber frame construction, Jeremy incorporates renewable energy practices where possible, including geo-thermal, solar, radiant heat, and energy-efficient foundation systems.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Jeremy\_Bonin](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jeremy_Bonin) |

Inexpensive Alternative - Non Discharge Sanitation - A Guide  
By [Lawrence Losoncy](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lawrence_Losoncy) Platinum Quality Author

Waterborne sanitation is often perceived as the normal method for the disposal of human waste. Due to its "flush and forget" nature, it is seen as the ideal solution. But the strain on water resources is enormous. To flush away 100 gallons of human waste, which is the average amount per year per person, it can take more than 8,000 gallons of water. (8 flushes per day times an average of 3 gallons of water per flush.) For the most part the water used to flush is treated water or high quality well water. Multiply that many gallons of water by the 300 million persons living in the United States: more than 2 trillion gallons of high quality water being used to flush! Added to this is the cost of operating and maintaining treatment plants and septic systems to accomplish the absurd: treating the once-treated water again to make it safe for discharge.

It does not require rocket science to figure out that in a time of severe drought, rising demands on dwindling supplies of usable water and rising treatment costs there must be a better way to dispose of human sanitary waste. As any environmentalist will quickly point out, non discharge toilets or sanitation treatment systems would make far more sense and be much cheaper to operate than the traditional waterborne sanitation that has us flushing toilets and urinals around the clock.

The face of the future is to be found in the use of alternative toilets and sanitation systems in the nation's parks, recreation areas and campgrounds, and by individuals where waterborne sanitation is not always feasible due to water shortages, pollution, costs, climatic conditions or impractical applications. The result has been the pursuit of alternative forms of sanitation such as pit latrines, composting toilets, chemical toilets, incendiary toilets and waterless evaporation toilets (dry sanitation). Each of these systems has its merits and, like all sanitation systems, none is perfect.

By way or terminology: onsite sanitation means those systems that take care of sanitation on location, as opposed to using sewer lines that take the waste to a central treatment site. Non discharge systems are those that do not put anything into the ground. The two most prevalent ways for disposing of sanitation are sewer line hookup and septic systems. Septic systems are onsite systems that discharge treated waste into the ground. Alternative systems are all other systems besides flush toilets on sewer hookup and septic systems.

**Composting toilets:** the advantage of these toilets is that they yield a usuable by-product. Coming in a variety of sizes, they are an economical way to have sanitation treatment, especially with very low usage, which only requires a smaller unit. They need to be tended to, emptied, and odor-controlled.

**Chemical toilets:** these are intended to be pumped. Porta potties are the best known and most widely used. Other smaller versions of chemical toilets for low usage such as on boats and at sites used only intermittently provide a low-cost way of handling human waste except for the cost of pumping. Odor control can be a challenge and there is heavy use of chemicals.

**Pit latrines:** handy for outdoor use, especially in the camp and wilderness settings. While they may be dug by hand and buried in in some settings, most jurisdictions still allowing pit latrines require that they be pumped. Odor control is an issue and they may require chemicals.

**Incendiary toilets:** these evaporate waste with the use of high temperature heat.

**Dry evaporative toilets:** these evaporate liquids and dry the solids, reducing them in size to about 5%. They do not use water or chemicals and have a large capacity. New to the United States, the reader will find an excellent description of these, known as Eloos, at http:://www.thegreenerhome.com/index.php/105.

What each of these types have in common is that they put nothing into the ground and do not use water. They differ in design, size, capacity, price and method of disposal. The user, therefore, will need to consider space and placement requirements, along with anticipated volume of usage, maintenance and any pumping requirements in selecting the system that best matches their site.

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| Losoncy is the president of Clean Up America, Inc. His company markets Eloos. To learn more go to <http://www.eloo.us>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lawrence\_Losoncy](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lawrence_Losoncy) |

Five New Environmentally Friendly Home Innovations  
By [Walter Schneider](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Walter_Schneider)

Get ready for green living with these five new environmentally friendly home   
innovations. Thanks to the growing interest in living green, great new products   
have been coming out of the proverbial woodwork. There are many new green  **environmentally** friendly home innovations that are unique, stylish, and of   
course, helpful to the environment. Whether you have been living green for many   
years now, or whether you recently made the choice to live with less impact on   
the environment, chances are you will find what you most want by checking out   
the latest round of green catalogs.   
  
There are many catalogs out now that allows you to shop for products that offer   
you an easy way to live in a more environmentally friendly matter. With the   
threat of global climate change becoming more prescient each year, it has become   
clear that even those of us who would not describe themselves as   
environmentalists will have to make some adjustments in the coming years as  **global warming** becomes an even more urgent cause. Thankfully, there are   
scores of cool new products and innovations that can help the transition that   
much more easy for you and your family. Here are five environmentally friendly   
home innovations that will keep you content and green.   
  
1. Solar Lights. Solar lights are the latest things to use in landscaping your   
yard. Not only are they lovely to look at, they are very **environmentally**   
friendly. Solar lights can be staked to the ground wherever you wish to place   
them in or around your property. They contain strong solar panels that absorb   
the light's warm energy all day and then radiate it back at night in a smooth,   
soothing glow of light. There are many different models to choose from.   
  
2. Backyard Composters. The new backyard composters make it easier than every to   
recycle your yard waste and kitchen scarps. Simply put all of your waste as   
indicated into the large spinner and turn to aerate the soil. Keep the compost   
slightly wet and spins the waste often for the best and fastest results.  
  
3. Composting toilets. If you are really into keeping the earth waste-free, you   
may be interested in the new composting toilets that are geared toward the   
environmentally friendly crowd. These fine toilets work just like regular   
toilets, except that they compost much of your waste.   
  
4. Solar Flashlight and Radio. Every household needs a good radio and   
flashlight. Why not get both in a cozy package that is not only convenient, but   
also very environmentally friendly? The solar flashlight and radio package   
allows you to charge the device simply by letting it sit in the sun. You can   
also turn the crank whenever you need an extra dose of power.   
  
5. Rain Harvesting Barrels. Indigenous people in many parts of the world,   
especially the dry places, have long done rain harvesting. Rain harvesting   
barrels work no matter where you live. They are a great way to be much less   
wasteful of one of the earth's most important **natural resources**--the   
rain. This is especially important in desert areas that do not receive much   
rainfall each year. With an ongoing drought, it makes sense to conserve and safe   
water whenever possible.   
  
These are just five of many of the fine products that are currently available   
for those among us who want to live a more reasonable and **environmentally   
friendly** lifestyle. It is now easier than ever to make a positive impact on   
this world. This happens when you live greener each day, taking each green day   
one by one. Simply making one small change each week can help make a big   
difference in the world.

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| Let's start taking care of our environment, just click [GLOBAL WARMING](http://environmentalist101.com)  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Walter\_Schneider](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Walter_Schneider) |  |

Keyword: [worm composting]

Worms Eat My Garbage: A Book Review  
By [H. Tim Sevets](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=H._Tim_Sevets) Platinum Quality Author

Worm composting is fun, easy and educational. It even has a fancy scientific name that you can throw out at your next party: vermicomposting. The acknowledged bible of vermicomposting is Mary Appelhof's *Worms Eat My Garbage*.

The basic idea of worm composting is that you set up a bin of some kind in which you place your daily garbage and some worms. The worms eat the garbage, turning it into rich dark castings which can then be used as a natural fertilizer for your plants.

There's more to it than that, of course. Some types of bins are better than others, you have to use the right kind of worms, and not all garbage is good for vermicomposting—for example, meat scraps are a no-no. *Worms Eat My Garbage* will set the beginning worm composter on the right track regarding all of these issues and more.

We've been vermicomposting in our household for several years now. One of the neat things about it is how the worms in our bin multiply so rapidly, making it a self-perpetuating system. Even my young daughter likes to go out and watch our wriggly little "pets" burrowing through crumbly worm-soil that started out weeks earlier as lettuce leaves, egg shells and coffee grounds.

*Worms Eat My Garbage* answers all of the important questions about composting with worms. Among these questions are: Where should you put the worm bin? What kind and size of container should you use? What kind of worms should you get? How many worms to you need? How do you take care of your worms?

Vermicomposting is receiving growing attention and interest, and it is quite likely that there is someone down at the local county extension office or 4H club who is knowledgeable about it and can demonstrate how to set up a worm bin for anyone who wants to get started. You might also be able to find free handouts that give the rudiments of starting a worm composting bin.

There is no substitute, though, for having a comprehensive manual on worm composting near to hand if worm composting sounds like something you want to try. *Worms Eat My Garbage* is that manual.

*Worms Eat My Garbage* is published by Flower Press of Kalamazoo, Michigan; ISBN # 0-942256-03-4.

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| H. Tim Sevets is books editor for the [Solid Gold Info Writers Consortium](http://www.solid-gold.info/index.html), where he specializes in objective reviews of the top money-making reports available over the Web. Recently, he reviewed an e-book that claims to show how to make money by tearing up old books and magazines and selling them on eBay. Read his opinion at <http://www.solid-gold.info/tear-up-old-books-sell-ebay.html>.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=H.\_Tim\_Sevets](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=H._Tim_Sevets) |

Interesting Information on Worm Composting  
By [Rob Buenaventura](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Rob_Buenaventura) Platinum Quality Author

Worm composting is also popularly known as vermicompost. The worm humus makes it efficient and an effective source of nutrients for gardens. Making a vermicompost on one's own could be a rewarding form for recycling also composting. It would also be a great educational experience.

***Worms***: Worms have a tendency of eating the organic vegetable matter. Later, they defecate this worm casting and produce more of these worms. It is a simple fact of the nature. As they are very much low on the protein chain, they can easily produce more of worms. Once, you get stared with this vermicompost you will have loads of livestock in order to continue with this process of vermicomposting. The red wriggler types of worms are the most common and the standard most types for the composting. They could be easily brought from any garden or the specialists.

***Creating a bedding***: The bedding needs to be of the organics as the worms gradually eat. You can add the shredded newspapers and the ground leaves and such items in order to create the bed. However, avoid adding the daily black and white newspapers. Then get it moist like a wrung out sponge and puff it for about ten to twelve inches deep. A handful of soils and some animal roughage would be great. Now the bed is ready and you can add the worms to it.

***Keep an eye***: It is necessary to keep a keen eye on this bedding. When everything is found to turn in to the casting then probably it is time to remove the worms. You will require changing the bedding. You can easily remove the worms and change the bedding to create a new one. This practice of vermicompost is bets for disposing off the kitchen waste while making great compost your beautiful garden full of flowers.

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| Visit us for more tips and information on [worm composting](http://www.compostingbenefits.com/worm_composting/) and [how to build a compost bin](http://www.compostingbenefits.com/how_to_build_a_compost_bin/).  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Rob\_Buenaventura](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Rob_Buenaventura) |

How Can Insulated Worm Composting Bin Improve Your Garden  
By [Mihael Knight](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mihael_Knight)

**Insulated worm composting bin** has proven itself to be a very effective way of composting. What happens is the worms simply transform your organic waste into rich compost that is ready to be used with your garden plants and makes your food more nutritious and tasteful. It was known throughout the history that dark and earthy soil brings good results in terms of healthy harvests and profitable gardening. But unfortunately, not many gardeners have this privilege. Here is where insulated worm composting bin comes into action. Vermicomposting material created in a red worm compost bin provides quality and fertility with positively stimulating the roots of garden plants.

Composting bins are very economical and not hard to get. When you obtain a bin that suits your needs, all you need to do is to simply add red worms in the bin and they will also receive help from other organisms such as fungi, insects, bacteria, etc., which will accelerate your composting process. Remember - the more, the merrier! You can provide a natural source of needed carbon to the worms by putting small pieces of leaves in the bin - just be careful not to use magnolia trees or oak trees because their acids can damage the worms and hurt your composting process. At the end, you will be left with a light and moisty soil ready to be put into your garden.

Another important thing to consider is how deep beneath the soil compost mixture the worms should be and where will you put the organic material for them. To be more precise, add 1 pound (thousand worms) approximately 7 inches beneath the soil compost mixture and place the organic material on the top. All you need to do now is to close the insulated worm composting bin and let worms do  their job.

If you are left with excess worms or possibly even compost you can easily sell them and invest your profits in a new container to restart the process without additional expenses.

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| I found a way that brings me record harvests and the taste is so good that even my kids started eating vegetables!  Learn more at my blog: <http://howdoyoumakecompostpile.wordpress.com/>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Mihael\_Knight](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mihael_Knight) |

Improve Seed Germination and Plant Growth With Worm Compost  
By [Bailey Struss](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Bailey_Struss)

If you want to get your valuable seeds off to a healthy and vibrant start, you might want to consider adding worm castings to either your seed starter mix or planting soil. For those not familiar with the terms "worm castings" or "vermicompost," it is basically that which is produced by the processing of waste products via composting worms. Worm castings are the more pure and refined product, whereas vermicompost contains a bit more of the decaying matter which has not been fully processed by the worms.

Because I practice both conventional (hot) composting and worm composting, I decided to put what I had read concerning the stated benefits to the test. I planted a number of seeds from heirloom tomatoes, peppers, greens, okra, and artichokes. In some, I used a standard quality seed starter mix, and in others, I added a 20% amount of worm castings from one of my worm bins. After about 10 days, there was a noticeable difference in both the amount of seeds which had germinated from the worm casting mix, and also the vitality of the seedlings. After this initial germination period, I continued comparing the vigor and health of the two groups of seedlings, and the results continued to be very obvious. Because some plant seeds are both expensive (or rare) and/or hard to germinate, worm castings should be of particular interest!

I have researched similar tests which have come to the same conclusion as my own, but when the concentration of the worm castings exceeded about 20%, the benefits started to decline. Therefore, this ratio seems optimal. There are theories that plant hormones in the worm compost (one of these being "auxin") aid in both the germination and later growth of the plant. The benefits from vermicompost do not just end with the seedling stage. These little "worm workers" (often called the intestines of the planet) also greatly increase the bio-availability of many plant nutrients - and it does not require much be added to the soil for these benefits to be realized.

Another exciting benefit has to do with the plant disease protection afforded by the abundant micro-organisms in vermicompost. For example, a number of trials have demonstrated control of verticillium in tomatoes. Additionally, these micro-organisms contribute chitinase which acts as a insecticide for your plants, and you can even make a compost tea which can also be used as a foliar application.

So why go through the trouble of producing worm compost for your plants? Well, it makes the best soil "that money can't buy." If you would rather not be bothered with vermicomposting, there are a number of garden centers and farmer's markets where you can purchase worm castings. However, due to varying production and handling practices, it may not end up being of the same quality and potency as that which you can produce yourself.

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| I write and maintain a blog dealing with the subjects of growing a number of home grown foods both naturally and in a manner that maximizes space and resources. My blog includes growing vegetables, fruits, herbs, and gourmet mushrooms. The topics of composting and worm composting are also covered extensively, and the site is well documented with many pictures and DIY plans. Visit us at <http://www.ecoyardfarming.com>  Feel free to republish this article as long as you include a link to our website.  Bailey Struss  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Bailey\_Struss](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Bailey_Struss) |

Vermicompost - How to Set Up a Simple Worm Farm and Make Compost in 4 Months  
By [Kathryn Bax](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Kathryn_Bax)

Vermicompost is vital to good soil. In the previous article on Organic Farming one of the sections dealt with soil and how important having healthy soil is to Organic Farming as a healthy soil equates to healthy vegetables and cattle. One of the main contributors to this process is the lowly earthworm. However, more and more people nowadays are realizing how useful this little animal is. The casts, or the manure that is produced by earthworms, is called vermicompost.

The humble earthworm's activities result in numerous advantages:

1) If you start your own vermicompost heap you generate an endless supply of cheap compost that is chemically-free, eco friendly and uses up biodegradable matter that before one would dispose of.   
2) The vermicompost is friable and improves not only the structure of the soil, but also the rate of water retention.   
3) The soil is enriched. The concentrations of nitrogen, calcium, magnesium, and phosphates are all higher in soil that has earthworms.   
4) Vermicompost also suppresses certain types of weeds that would have grown if the compost were not present.   
5) It promotes better root growth and structure, and is an excellent medium for growing seedlings and seeds as it enhances germination and crop yields.

So now that we know the benefits of worm farming, how do we go about setting up a small worm farm and what sort of bin should you choose?

What Size of Bin and Type of Bin is Best for you?

For each 500 g (1 pound) of food waste produced each week, you will need at least 30 cm squared (1 ft squared) of bin space. Therefore choose the size of bin that is appropriate for your size family. As a benchmark for 2-3 people you should have a bin measuring 60 x 60 x 30 cm stocked with 1 kg of worms.

Most small bins for vermicompost use can be grouped into three categories:

1) Non-continuous : An undivided container, a layer of organic matter is placed in the bin lining the bottom. Worms are then added and organic matter for composting is added in a layer above the bedding. Another layer is added on top of the organic matter and the worms will start to compost the organic matter and bedding. This type of bin is often used because it is small and easy to build. But it is relatively difficult to harvest because all the materials and worms must be emptied out when harvesting.

2) Continuous vertical flow : A series of trays are stacked vertically on top of one another. The bottom tray is filled first, in a similar fashion to the non-continuous bin, but is not harvested when it is full. Instead, a thick layer of bedding is added on top and the tray above is used for adding organic material. Worms finish composting the materials in the bottom tray and then migrate to the one above. When a sufficient number of worms have migrated, the vermicompost in the bottom tray can be collected and should be relatively free of worms. These bins provide an easier method of harvesting, as they do not all have to be emptied out.

3) Continuous horizontal flow: A series of trays are lined horizontally. This method too relies on the earthworms migrating towards a food source in order to ease the process of harvesting. The bin is usually constructed to be similar to a non-continuous bin but is longer and lies horizontally. It is divided in half, usually by a large gauge screen of chicken wire. One half is used until it becomes full, then the other half is filled with bedding and organic matter. In time, the worms migrate to the side with the food and the compost can then be collected. These bins are larger than a non-continuous system but still small enough to be used for small-scale worm farming, with the added advantage of being easier to harvest.

Setting up a small-scale Worm Farm

Setting up the compost bin is easier than you may think. All you need are the following:

\* A plastic bin with a lid to keep away the flies and to cut down on odours while the matter is decomposing. However, your worms will need oxygen, so drill holes in the bottom of the bin for ventilation and drainage and further help this process by placing the bin on some bricks to elevate it off the ground.

\* Place some bedding in the bin for the worms in the form of either shredded paper (that from a mechanical shredder is perfect as it is really fine), peat moss or shredded coconut hair (coir) that can be commercially bought. Do not use glossy paper or magazines. This should not be more than about a fifth of your bin space. Remember that the worms eat the bedding, so you need to replenish this every few months.

\* Water to dampen the bedding. Make sure that you do not flood the bin with too much water. You just want to make the bedding moist.

\* Get your food scraps that you have been saving up. The best scraps are fruit and vegetable peelings, fruit skins, apple cores etc. If you want to help your worms along, some of those scraps could be liquidised in a blender to quicken the process. Additions such as cow, sheep, pig or chicken manure is a bonus, but it is not a necessity.

\* In setting up your vermicompost avoid feeding the worms the following: meat, fats or dairy products, citrus, onions and garlic, fish, bones, tobacco, or pet or human manure. Too much fat prevents the earthworms from breathing properly as they breathe through their skin. Also avoid using too many watermelon skins as they really don't have a lot of nutritional value for the earthworm and they also disrupt the moisture levels of the compost. If your lawns have been sprayed with any weed killer avoid feeding these clippings to the worms.

\* Now it is time to place your worms into the bin. The type of worm is important and the red worms are the ones to get. These are called composting worms and known as Red Wigglers (Eisenia foetida) or Red Earthworms (Lumbricus rubellus). Make sure that you do this on a sunny day and that the sun is shining into the compost bin. Earthworms do not like the sun and they will immediately start digging down into their new home. If you do not have the sun shining for this exercise you may find that most of your worms have crawled out of the bin and left for greener pastures! The worms can be bought commercially, including over the Internet.

\* Now cover with two handfuls of soil to the bedding in each bin to supply "roughage" for the worms. Adding crushed eggshells provides not only roughage but also calcium for the worms, and it lowers acidity in the bin. Now put the lid down on the bin.

Where should you Place your Vermicompost Bin?

Many people actually like to keep their bin inside, either in a garage, basement, kitchen or laundry area. Personally, I do not think that compost bins belong indoors at all. Rather place the bin in a sheltered area out of the sun. In winter, you could move the bin to the garage, or surround it with some form of shelter like hay bales to keep the snow, rain and cold out.

Maintaining your Vermicompost Bin

You have to make sure that you have enough moisture in your bin, without it getting too wet, and   
making sure that the compost is alkaline rather than acidic. You should turn the bin contents over on a regular basis, it's best to do this every 3 days. Your worms require 3 things to exist: i) Oxygen ii) Moisture iii) Food Scraps iv) A dark place to live

If all requirements are met your worms will live quite happily in their new environment and will also procreate. Adult worms produce three cocoons a week and each cocoon will contain at least three baby worms and sometimes ten or more. Every three months the worms should be harvested or separated from the castings.

Make sure that your soil never smells sour. If this happens it means that the soil is too wet. If it smells sour then add calcium carbonate, also known as garden lime which is very different to ordinary lime which will kill your worms, crushed egg shells, dirt, sand, or more newspaper to soak up that excess moisture.

So how wet should your compost be? - About 75% moist. What exactly does this mean? I can already hear you ask. Well, if you take a handful of matter and squeeze it hard you should only get about a drop or two of liquid. This is just how your worms like their environment and will be quite happy to stay.

No only will they be happy to stay they will also multiply. If conditions are good, you will double your worm population in six months. If the worms become crowded and you do not remove any, then worms will slow down their reproduction.

Feeding your Worms

There are two methods of adding food scraps to the bin.

\* Top feeding: This is when food scraps and biodegradable matter is placed directly on top of the existing layer in a bin and then covered with another layer of bedding and soil. This is repeated every time the bin is fed.

\* Pocket feeding : A top layer of bedding is maintained and food is buried beneath by drilling down into the bedding. The location of the food is changed each time, rotating around the bin to give the worms time to decompose the food in the previously fed pockets. The top layer of bedding is replaced when necessary.

One pound of worms will eat about three and one half pounds of food scraps a week. If you add more food than your worms can handle, anaerobic conditions will set in and cause odour. Make sure that food scraps are always buried under the soil to avoid attracting flies and rodents.

Knowing When and How to Harvest the Vermicompost

Smaller scale worm bins are harvested in a variety of ways, and the length of time it takes for the process to be completed really depends on a whole range of variables including the size of the container to start off with. In all cases, harvesting should begin when the bedding and consumed food has turned a rich dark brown. It should be moist and crumbly, with a consistency of coffee grounds.

After about six weeks, you will begin to see worm castings (soil-like material that has moved through the worms' digestive tracts). Castings can boost plant growth, since they are rich in organic matter and the nutrients plants need to thrive, and are pulsing with biological activity that will bring life to your soil eco-system.

After about 4 months it will be time to separate the worms from the compost. If you have a non-continuous or undivided container, it is more difficult to harvest the worms. However, this situation is certainly not impossible. Take the contents and turn it upside-down on a piece of plastic such as a ground sheet or a tarpaulin. Because the earthworms are photosensitive, if this is done on a sunny day the worms will start burrowing down, and then it is easy to start scraping the compost from the top, waiting in between for them the move downwards. Wait 20-30 minutes before starting to scrape off the top layer of compost.

If, however, you are the impatient type, get yourself a fine meshed sieve, the type they use in construction yards, if your compost heap is fairly large, or a large household sieve will do. Sieve the compost until you have finely granulated composted on one side, and your worms in the other to start the process all over again. Do not be lazy and put the worms into your soil along with the compost. It is not that the worms will damage your plants in any way, but red worms are not worms that will survive for any length of time in such soil. In nature, this type of worm lives in mild climates in the leaves on the forest floor or in manure piles.

Be on the lookout for worm eggs. They are lemon-shaped and about the size of a match head. They are shiny in appearance, and are light brown in colour. The eggs contain between two and twenty baby worms. Although it is time consuming, you may want to return the eggs to your bin so they can hatch and thrive.

Another way to harvest the compost is to move the compost to one side of the box and add fresh bedding and food to the other side. Then only bury food on the new side. In six weeks, the worms will have migrated to the new bedding and you can harvest the finished compost, and replace it with new bedding.

Now that you have all this compost how are you going to use it?

You can use your vermicompost straight away or store it and use it later. It will be good for about a year. Mix it into the top six inches of soil in your garden and around your trees and plants. You can also use it as a top dressing on outdoor plants or sprinkle it on your lawn like you would as if you were top-dressing. Vermicompost makes great nutrient-rich mulch so is perfect for areas that do not get lots of rain for moisture retention.

For indoor plants, you can safely mix vermicompost with your potting soil. Regarding indoor plants, make sure that you have removed all worms and eggs from the compost as they will not survive in an indoor pot.

You can also make a "compost tea" to feed to your plants. An easy recipe is to add two tablespoons of vermicompost to one quart of water and allow it to steep for a day, mixing occasionally. Water your plants with this "tea" to give them a boost.

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| Kathryn Bax <http://www.countryfarm-lifestyles.com> Country Living and Farm Lifestyles: A farm directory for farm accommodation, farm food and farm services from farmers worldwide.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Kathryn\_Bax](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Kathryn_Bax) |

Worm Bins - The Secret To Free Organic Compost  
By [Chris Dailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Chris_Dailey) Platinum Quality Author

One of the major costs when delving into the fun filled hobby or profession of organic gardening is the cost of maintaining the proper levels of nutrients in your soil each year that you grow your food. Healthy organic vegetables are a mainstay with many people and those obsessed with good health will often start their very own organic garden. One of the best ways to maintain sizable crops that are full of robust and healthy food is to make sure that you add nutrient filled compost on a regular basis. By purchasing a worm bin and raising worms which will in turn create compost for your garden is one of the most economical and smart ways of creating one of the best gardening experiences of your life. Here are a few tips on how to make sure that you can provide the best organic compost for your garden using worms and worm bins.

The first thing that you are going to need if you are going to begin to in essence to grow your own organic compost is to find an affordable worm bin. Worm bins can range from about $50-$150. You could use old wine barrels (not made from oak due to their acidic nature) or a more modern choice would be the plastic containers that have lids that come in different shapes and sizes. One thing you should consider is making sure that your worm bin is not too tall. Often times you will see pictures of them and assume that taller and larger is better whereas in reality unless you are going for worm cocoons which are often laid on the top level of the soil and compost with in the bin, you would be better off to get a short one, more like a bucket that holds five to 10 gallons, which will consolidate the worm's efforts for creating compost and through consistent rotation generate far more compost than large worm bins ever will (think surface area not volume).

Just like an organic garden that you are growing, where drainage is a necessity for the excess water in your soil after watering, worm bins also need to have drainage holes at the bottom and also several holes that will allow air into the bedding within the bin. Depending upon the type of material that your worm bin is made of, you could probably take a power drill and bore five to 10 holes about a quarter inch in diameter around the perimeter near the top and also, if there is a lid, holes in that is well. By having proper aeration for your worms, as well as proper drainage, it will create a habitat that is conducive for optimal worm breeding as well as compost creation.

Remembering that the worms are the producers and generators of the compost that you need for your organic garden, you should know a few things about worms to make sure that they stay healthy and happy in their compost producing environment. Worms of course are made of about 80% water and if you let the soil within the container get to dry, they will actually begin to excrete water from their bodies in order to maintain the proper moisture balance. This of course will cause damage to the worms and they will inevitably die. Therefore, in order to make sure that their habitat stays in balance, there are a few things that you should add to the soil such as biodegradable bedding.

Biodegradable bedding can be things like dry grass, cardboard, peat moss, or even horse manure that has been heated to over 140° to make sure that any bad bacteria was killed off. Using these types of bedding which have anywhere from a mildly acidic to a mildly basic p.h., help regulate moisture content within the bin and almost act like a sponge maintaining a moisture level that is adequate for the worms on a consistent basis.

Once you have the proper amount of moisture, it is time to feed your worms. Taking into account that worms are typically photo phobic to almost all kinds of visible light, make sure that some of the food scraps that you place in the bin for the worms are somewhat buried which will act as a beacon for them to crawl up and begin to eat their food. With the addition of the lid over the composting mixture, the worms will come to the top and begin feeding in a frenzy which is exactly what you want because the more they eat, and more compost they will produce. Worms love to eat most any vegetable scraps. You can also feed them bread, most grains, but always avoid dairy products and fatty foods which will actually cause the typically fragrant odor found in most worm bins into a rancid smell that you will regret later.

The end result will be a composting mixture that is rich in many necessary nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and of many other trace minerals that create one of the best organic fertilizers on the planet. By adding worm bins to your repertoire of organic gardening necessities, you will create for yourself not only an extremely productive organic garden but a vermiculture factory that will provide you with the best compost you could ever add to your garden's soil.

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| Chris Dailey is the owner of Super Organic Gardening Secrets, a free online service that provides valuable information on organic gardening, including [worm bins](http://www.superorganicgardeningsecrets.com/). To download his free organic gardening reports, go to <http://www.superorganicgardeningsecrets.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Chris\_Dailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Chris_Dailey) |

Worm Composting Tips from the Worm Whisperer  
By [Vicki Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) Platinum Quality Author

I'm sure many of you have heard of Cesar Milan, also known as the Dog Whisperer, but are you familiar with Vern Culteur the Worm Whisperer? Unlike his canine counterpart, Culteur is well versed and in tune with the ways of the worm and its needs for a successful and fruitful compost. Compost, you say? What in the world does a worm have to do with composting? Well, my friend let me tell you more…

According to Culteur, known to his friends as Verny the Wormy, worms play a vital part in the composting process. In fact, there's an entire composting process called vermicomposting or vermiculture which involves food scraps, yard wastes and worms. When visiting troubled gardeners and composters alike, Culteur adamantly but gently tells each one that if they're going to start composting with worms, then they'll have to adapt to a few changes. For instance, one of the first mistakes that many novice composters make is using the wrong worm.

Earth worms, though commonly found in the soil of any backyard and along sidewalks on rainy days, make for great fishing bait but not for worm composting. The reason, Culteur explains, is that even though earth worms aerate the soil they don't properly digest the organic matter and produce worm castings, which is what's needed for composting. "The best worms to use in the composting world are red wiggler worms," says Culteur. "Night crawlers work well, also, but they don't tend to survive for long in too damp of an environment. You'd be better off with red wigglers."

Culteur also mentions that in order to ensure a successful composting experience, you'll have to keep your worms happy, which means you have to regularly feed them. "Things like banana peels, chopped up vegetable stalks and leaves, in addition to some grit like a cup full of soil and some newspaper strips will keep your worms feeding and wanting for more." After a few weeks, you're most certainly garanteed to have rich, black gold known as worm castings to add to your garden's soil. Before concluding, Culteur made sure to add, "Unlike dogs, you won't have to maintain who's the boss in this relationship; your worms will be the hardiest of workers!"

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Vermicomposting Systems - Fast Composting On A Shoestring Budget  
By [Chris Dailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Chris_Dailey) Platinum Quality Author

One of natures most underrated workers are the eisenia fetida or red wiggler worms. Commonly found in organically rich soils that they help to create throughout the world including North America and some parts of Europe, these special creatures do an absolutely amazing thing: they can take vegetation that is currently rotting and process it in a way that creates compost as the natural end product of what they do with this organic matter. Contrasting this to the regular composting process, red worms have become a staple product for organic gardening enthusiasts not only by the worms used to create their own compost, but also in the way of helping decrease waste in our landfills and at the same time creating fresh organic compost. Here is a very easy vermicomposting system that anyone can do in order to create their own worm compost machine.

Organic gardening is slowly becoming one of the most popular hobbies of not only environmental enthusiasts but people that happen upon this natural way to improve their health. Organic food is known for its ability to retain more nutrients per gram of dryweight of almost every vegetable or fruit grown in this manner. One of the key ingredients is making sure that proper amounts of rich compost are added to the soil in order to ensure that the final product is in rich with vitamins, minerals, and phytonutrients that will help a persons general health through regular eating of organic foods.

Vermicompost or worm compost is an ideal additive for any garden because of not only the nutrient value, but the system that is so easy to set up which almost anyone can use to create their own natural fertilizer. Depending upon the size of your garden and your needs, you can take a simple container in the shape of a box or a large garbage can and begin this composting process.

The first thing to consider with your worm composting bin is that you need to have proper aeration and drainage. Remember that your container will have a living population of red worms so it is important to consider their needs. You will want to provide fresh air and also a way for water to flow out so that it does not become stagnant. You are, in essence, creating a community of workers that will create a product for you and all they ask is that you feed them organic waste from your table on a regular basis along with keeping proper moisture and ph levels.

There are several types of vermicomposting systems that you can try out. Some have a continuous vertical flow of air and water. These are stacked on top of each other in the format of trays that our filled from the bottom up. The top tray is where you will put the organic matter that the red wigglers will eat and process. The subsequent trays will be used to catch various things such as compost, worm castings, and worm cocoons. It is also okay to build your trays horizontally but this of course takes more room. Depending upon the size of your operation, and how much space you have, you could literally create a business of creating compost from worms given enough organic waste and room in which to grow.

Thinking again from the worms perspective, you want to create an environment that is similar to the natural environment that the worms are used to in a natural setting. Imagine walking through the forest and considering the temperature underneath the trees and the layers of leaves which will soon be decomposing on the forest floor. Likewise, you want to have a similar soil makeup in your bedding as well as an equivalent temperature so that the worms feel as if they are in a natural setting and will begin to process your organic waste.

Therefore, the bedding should be moist. The bedding materials that you can use that will mimic a natural setting would include peat moss, dried manure, or even newspaper from your local store. The bedding should also allow aeration so that the decomposition process, as well as the worms ability to access air, is available. The temperature should be about where humans feel comfortable or a round 60 to 70°. Lastly, there needs to be a ratio between carbon and nitrogen in the bedding mix so that not only the worms, but the other organisms that will be living with and helping the worms decompose the organic material, can feel comfortable. This ratio is about thirty to one with the majority of the bedding content being carbon based and the rest being nitrogen based.

Once you have thrown all of this together which should not take longer than a few hours of your time, especially if you have access to soil and a source for worms, you should begin adding organic material to your vermiculture system and let the process begin.

A last thing to consider is the maintenance of the worms and their habitat. The most important thing to ensure the health of your population of worms is to make sure that it is aerated properly. There needs to be enough oxygen to allow their habitat to be aerobic and not anaerobic. The difference is aerobic allows for the decomposition process to occur via the worms. Anaerobic is just the opposite and that is similar to what you would smell if you left your organic material on your counter for several days or smelled meat rotting. This is more of a stagnant process whereas the worms perform a natural processing of the waste.

The entire project should cost you no more than forty dollars to get access to worms and a container, and a few hours of your time for setup and maintenance. In doing so, you will create a small vermicomposting systems that will produce for you not only the freshest compost that you will ever smell but also a rich compost that will add flavor and nutrients to your organic garden products in a way that you have never seen, or tasted, before.

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| Chris Dailey is the owner of Super Organic Gardening Secrets, a free online service that provides valuable information on organic gardening, including information on [vermicomposting systems](http://www.superorganicgardeningsecrets.com/) To download his free organic gardening reports, go to <http://www.superorganicgardeningsecrets.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Chris\_Dailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Chris_Dailey) |

Worm Castings - Nature's Time Release Fertilizer  
By [Chris Dailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Chris_Dailey)

When a gardener goes out to his fields to start planting, one of the top concerns that he has on his mind is what will potentially be able to kill his crops. Modern man has created many alternatives to natural protection of crops such as pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides which can be harmful not only to the soil but also to the people that eat the plants as well as the aquifers that hold our drinking water beneath the ground. One of natures natural fertilizers as well as insect and disease repellents is called a worm casting. These small nodules are created by red worms as they participate in the composting process, something that they naturally do and have done for millions of years. Here are a few ways that you can use worm castings to not only enhance your organic garden but also protect it from harmful invaders.

Redworm compost is used by many people as a source for organic compost. By simply feeding them some organic scraps from their garden, over a period of time these scraps are processed into a compost that can be used as a mulch or a fertilizer. As the worms process the waste into compost, they also create what are called worm castings. Basically, the poop of the worm, castings can be used for a variety of reasons.

Primarily used as an organic fertilizer, most organic gardeners rely on worm composting and castings to not only balance the pH levels in the soil but also to help retain as much moisture as possible, something that all worms need an abundance of. Unlike most fertilizers, castings will not burn plants or roots if used too much. Moreover, they act as repellents for both insects and diseases that may strike your crops without you knowing.

Worm castings also contain a great variety of nutrients that are used by almost all plants today. Some of these nutrients include magnesium, nitrogen, and potassium which are necessary ingredients for a healthy crop or garden regardless if it is organic or not. What is also interesting is the castings are almost like a time release capsule that will, over time, release the necessary water soluble ingredients into the soil thus making it possible to simply top dress the castings on the soil and allow them to disintegrate over time.

Another aspect of castings are that they have many living components such as aerobic bacteria, the good kind, and organisms that will actually take gasses such as nitrogen from the atmosphere and fix them into usable nitrogen in the form of nitrate, thus feeding the roots of the plants even more.

Castings are naturally harvested over time. They tend to move to the lower levels of the worm bin and if the worms and their environment are regularly aerated by moving the dirt around, through vibration and churning, the castings will fall to the bottom of the bin to be harvested.

Many people are confused as to what worm castings actually are because some people have been shown a bag of castings mixed with compost. Pure castings look like black sand grains with no compost or dirt mixed in. If you get a bag of compost, and there is anything that does not look uniform, like sand grains, then you know that the castings were also not sifted properly from the compost itself. Having a mixture of vermicompost and castings can be beneficial as it will provide a steady stream of fertilizer as bacteria continue to break down the compost over time.

As a general rule, you can spread 10 pounds of worm castings over 150 foot to 200 foot area and be assured that this will properly fertilize your soil in the days to come as it begins to break down in a natural way. Many people that have large gardens or if they are growing crops on a commercial level may have their very own red worm compost generating system where they can access thousands of pounds of castings in order to maintain the vast spread that they are growing.

Another way to extract the nutrients from the castings is to add water to them and aerate them, then spray this castings tea which is high in organic nutrients onto the leaves, called foliar feeding, and into the soil. This is used by those who will use the bacterial nature of the castings to fight outside microorganisms that may land on the leaves and begin to sicken or weaken the plant. These beneficial microorganisms will destroy bad bacteria, fungus, and molds that may be growing on the leaf surface.

If you ever do decide to create a little organic garden, be sure to find a way to get worm castings for your garden. If you like the aspect of doing very little manual labor to achieve compost and fertilizer for your garden then create a supply of vermicompost and spread the compost and castings over your garden soil. Then let nature begin to naturally decompose these castings, through regular watering, so that your soil will have the optimum amount of nutrients necessary for a successful organic crop.

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| Chris Dailey is the owner of Super Organic Gardening Secrets, a free online service that provides valuable information on organic gardening, including [worm castings](http://www.superorganicgardeningsecrets.com/) To download his 7 Free Organic Gardening Reports, go to <http://www.superorganicgardeningsecrets.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Chris\_Dailey](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Chris_Dailey) |

Start a Worm Farm  
By [Ian Pennington](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Ian_Pennington)

Humans have been polluting the earth for decades. We have dumped our wastes into the soil, rivers, seas and even the air. Environmentalists are encouraging everyone to do what they can to help save Mother Nature. It doesn't have to involve something big like chaining yourself to a tree in the middle of the Brazilian rainforest, something as little as recycling and managing your household waste like food scraps goes a long way. A fun, environmentally friendly and cost effective way of getting rid of your food scraps is worm farming.

Worm what you ask? Worm farming or worm composting is the practice of feeding your organic wastes to worms to produce worm tea. Worm tea is the liquid produced during the composting process and is used as an environmentally safe fertilizer. So you not only get rid of your organic wastes like food scraps, but you also get to make organic chemical free fertilizers for your gardens. Worm farming can be done both indoors and outdoors and is a good way for kids and adults alike to learn about nature, recycling and helping the environment.

So how do you start a worm farm? Before you go off and catch some worms here are a couple of basic things you should know about worm farming. First off you need to pick the site of where you want your worm farm to be. Remember that worms don't like the heat so make sure to pick a nice cool and shady spot for your worm farm.

Picking the ideal container is important in worm farming. You can buy commercially sold worm beds or farms or better yet you can recycle old boxes or even an old bathtub. The thing to remember is that the typical worm bed is around 30 centimeters deep, 60 centimeters wide and 90 centimeters long. It is important to have holes in the base of the box to allow for good drainage and air circulation. The box should also have a lid to cover it with and a base underneath the box to catch liquid and provide good drainage. Remember that worms breathe through their skins so they need a lot of moisture but be careful as too much water will also drown your worms.

After you have your box and base set up, the third step to worm farming is preparing the bedding for your worms. Torn, or shredded paper mixed with compost and soil make for good worm beddings. Make sure that the bedding material is torn or shredded and then soaked in water before it is added to the box. The bedding layer should be ten to fifteen centimeters deep.

Now that your worm bed and bedding is ready its time to pick your worms, you can buy commercially sold worms. Worm farming has gotten to be very popular so you can even check the yellow pages under Worm Farm for distributors. Worms are usually sold by the thousands and a thousand worms would weigh about 250 grams. A good solid number to start your worm farm with is around two thousand worms.

When it comes to feeding your worms be sure to pick food scraps like vegetable and fruit peelings. They also like bread, juicer pulp, crushed eggshells, and even teabags. Never feed your worms dairy products, meat, fish, fat and bones. This type of food will also make your worm farm stink. Worm farming experts also advise you not to feed your worms oily foods, citrus and garlic.

Harvesting the fruits of your worm farming efforts is done in two simple steps: first, move the old bedding to one side of the box and then add fresh bedding to the other side. The worms will move on their own after a day or two. Make sure to harvest the liquid produced by the worms and their castings as they make great fertilizers.

Worm farming is an easy, fun and cost effective way to manage your food scraps, not to mention the money you save on fertilizers. So help save money and help save the environment today by starting your very own worm farm!

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| Ian Pennington is an accomplished niche website developer and author.  To learn more about [starting a worm farm](http://topworkfromhomeideastoday.info/start-a-worm-farm/), please visit [Top Work From Home Ideas Today](http://topworkfromhomeideastoday.info/) for current articles and discussions.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Ian\_Pennington](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Ian_Pennington) |

Worm Composting Bin  
By [Anthony Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) Platinum Quality Author

One of the best ways to improve your garden is to stop throwing out your garbage. That's right, your used coffee grinds and banana peels can help your tomato and cucumber plants grow larger and stronger. When that same garbage is eaten and digested by a worm it becomes a powerful plant supplement known as worm castings. Starting a worm compost bin is a great way to create a steady supply of worm castings for your flower and vegetable gardens.

First thing you'll need is a bin. You can buy a commercially made worm bin but where's the fun in that. Those plastic or rubber storage bins make great worm bins. Drill a few holes in the bin so your worms get plenty of air. Just be sure to cover those holes with small pieces of window screen or something else that will keep the fruit flies out. And if you have any plumbing experience, why not add a hose spigot near the bottom of the bin to take advantage of worm tea. Worm tea is even better than compost tea for your plants. All you have to do is add a cup or two to a large watering can and fill the rest with water. Then water as normal.

Next you'll need some worm bedding. Most commonly used worm bedding for home bins is shredded newspapers. The bedding must stay moist but not water logged. Use a spray bottle to keep the bedding just right for your worms. When your order worms in the mail they will usually ship in a container filled with peat moss. Some people have stopped using peat moss as a political statement. You see peat is not a replenishable resource. Peat takes centuries to develop in swampy regions and it's just being used up too quickly. Other's argue that Peat is now created in a safe quick way and what's all the fuss about anyway. The two sides contradict each other so it's up to you to decide if you want to use it. Newspapers are readily available and you probably have a stack of them in your house already. So why not avoid the whole controversy and go with what's on hand.

And don't forget to put some dirt in the bin too. Worms don't have teeth, so they need some grit to help grind up their food. You can also use rock dust or powdered limestone instead of dirt if you like, but regular dirt from your yard will work fine.

And of course, let's not forget the worms. Digging up some worms from your yard will not work in a worm bin. Worms that come from the soil, like to live in the soil. For worm bins, you'll need red wigglers. They'll love the environment that you've created in your worm bin. How many should you buy, that depends on the size of your bin. Let's assume that you've created your worm bin for the worm castings and not to have tons of worms for your weekends fishing. That means that you're going to leave the worms in the bin until they've turned most of the bedding and food waste into vermicompost. The worm to garbage ratio is usually 2:1. That means that if you're going to put a half pound of garbage into the bin on a daily basis, then you should start with a pound of worms.   
Check your bin everyday to ensure that you get off to a good start. Keep the bedding moist and the bin should stay in a spot that's about 60 to 70 degrees. Leaving the bin outside in the summer sun is a good way to cook all of your worms. And remember if the worm bin starts to smell, then you probably need more bedding.

Starting a worm bin is a fun project for everyone in the family. Get your kids involved, they'll love watching those little worms wiggle around your bin. And if you're lucky, you may see one of the kids chase your mother in law around the house with a handful of worms. Like I said, worm bins are good times for the whole family and great for your garden too.

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| Anthony Tripodi is the webmaster of WatchItRot.com. For more information about starting a [Worm Composting Bin](http://www.watchitrot.com/worm_compost_bin.htm), visit <http://www.watchitrot.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Anthony\_Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) |

Keyword: [what is composting]

Your Composting Questions Answered  
By [Mike Selvon](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mike_Selvon) Platinum Quality Author

Each year in the spring people venture outdoors to begin planting their gardens and flower beds. The allure of warm, gentle days seems to call out the winter hermits in an act of reseeding the world with beauty and divine scents.

One thing that does not make sense is the amount of money spent on commercial fertilizers and compost. Composting yourself is free and makes some of the best fertilizer in the world. Sure, it does take some time but if you start work on it early you can have rich, dark soil by the time planting season comes around.

Composting is environmentally friendly and once you know what can be composted and what cannot, you will be on your way to being eco-friendly. In this article the basics of composting will be covered such as what it actually is technically and how you can begin your own compost heap in your own backyard.

What is composting?

Composting is the process of taking organic material and breaking it down through a variety of chemical and animal processes to achieve fertilizer and plant building material that is both cheap and highly effective. It is very environmentally friendly and is a great way to avoid paying those high costs of bags of fertilizer.

You can utilize those leftover food wastes, animal wastes, grass clippings, branches and other organic materials to create a loamy material that will help your plants grow to their maximum potential like no other commercial grade fertilizer possibly can. The best part is that it is free!

What can I use to help the material break down?

If you want your compost heap and material to break down faster you are going to need to keep it aerated, moist and broken into smaller pieces. You can also help break down the material by adding worms and other small insects into the pile that will help eat the organic material.

Their waste products are filled with great nutrients for the soil and before long you will have a compost heap that is ready to hit the garden to begin the cycle all over again. It is a circle of life that is a great example of Mother Nature at her finest and shows what recycling can do for the environment.

How does compost improve the soil?

Composting adds valuable nutrients back into the soil such as Carbon, Nitrogen and Oxygen. There are other essential elements that are added that will all work together to add the depleted minerals from the growth cycle back into the soil after a plant has used them. Consider it a natural cycle that is essential for plants, grasses, trees and flowers to grow and thrive.

How do I prepare the materials for composting?

Start preparing your compost pile by breaking up the materials into manageable pieces. The object is to help the materials break down or decompose faster. Larger pieces will hinder the process. A shredder works wonders for yard trimmings.

If you are using manure you will want to take a pitch fork and break up the clumps before adding them into the pile. Try to keep the pieces to sizes around the shape of a leaf if it is at all possible.

If you can keep them even smaller to help speed up the process that much faster and before long you will have a mound of fertilizer to use however you see fit.

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Adventures in Home Composting  
By [Anita Koppens](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anita_Koppens)

Kitchen leavings such as banana peels, cantaloupe rinds and eggshells do not need to go into the trashcan. They can be recycled in compost bins to provide wonderful nutrients for succeeding generations of vegetation. With more people becoming devoted to the environment, composting is a simple procedure that can be implemented at home to reduce the negative impact on the eco-system. Composting is easy to start at home; simply keeping a small garbage pail dedicated to eco-friendly refuse in the kitchen can help you begin. At the end of each day, simply take the materials out to the area where you keep your compost bin. With very little effort and some assistance from the natural activities of bugs and warmth from the sun, you can cultivate nutrient rich soil for your garden, house plants or landscaping and feel good about being pro-active and reducing waste in landfills.

For those who do not wish to purchase a ready-made compost bin, it's uncomplicated to make one from lumber. Anyone with little knowledge can build a compost bin in a brief period of time. There are many instructions available online, so you have the chance of picking a plan that appeals to your aesthetic taste. You will need materials and, if raccoons or other wild animals are troublesome in your area, you may want a hinged cover to keep animals out.

Compost bins are generally affordable and simple to construct. One of the easiest ways involves taking sections of snow fence and making them into a square by attaching all corners to a strong post, and then staking it into the ground. Others have fashioned compost bins from used skids or simply by creating a circle from chicken wire. If you want a stronger compost bin, consider using two by fours to craft a square compost bin with gaps for airflow.

Put the compost bin at a sufficient distance from your home so that you can't smell any waste, yet close enough for convenience. You should also keep in mind that the compost bin will naturally be warm because of the biological process occurring inside of it. In order to keep this heat, if you live in a colder climate you will need to place it in a sunny area. If you dwell in a very hot, dry climate, you will need to add water to it occasionally and perhaps put it in a sheltered area. It needs to sustain some warmth and moisture, but any severity in temperature will likely slow down the progression.

When your compost pile is in full swing, it will be easy to maintain and reap the many benefits from your good intentions. Continuously add scraps from the kitchen like onion peels, lettuce, even whole fruits or vegetables that went bad before you had the opportunity to eat them. It is essential to turn the soil at least once per season to keep the soil oxygenated. The material at the bottom should be exposed to the top and vice versa for the bottom. Such simplicity with great rewards should provide encouragement to keep up with other environmentally friendly habits. Don't forget that children love the idea too.

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Organic Composting  
By [Davinos Greeno](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Davinos_Greeno)

Making compost will help you reduce pollution and cut down that landfill! Your plants will grow healthier and look happier for it and it will save you money on fertilisers too. Our local council in Manchester has now given us brown bins for us to add leaves, grass and other compost matter into, which is then emptied every two weeks once it has reduced to less than half its size.   
What is compost?

Garden guides often describe composting as natures way of recycling.

Composting is indeed a natural way of recycling, harnessing natural processes rather than machinery and man-made chemicals, but it takes people to do it.   
Soil maintenance is at the heart of organic growing: dont feed the plants, feed the soil -- the plants will look after themselves. The extremely complex subject of soil maintenance can happily be summed up in one word: composting.   
A smelly hole at the far end of the garden filled with putrefying kitchen wastes and flies buzzing round. Thats what compost isnt. No stinks, no flies, though kitchen waste is welcome.   
Compost is not just decayed organic matter. Composting is applied microbiology at its most complex, involving the interactions of thousands upon thousands of different species of micro organisms in a highly complex ecosystem.   
What can I compost?   
If it can rot it will compost, but some items are best avoided. Some things, like grass mowings and soft young weeds, rot quickly. They work as activators or hotter rotters, getting the composting started, but on their own will decay to a smelly mess. Recycle your plant-based, kitchen and garden waste by making it into compost   
Older and tougher plant material is slower to rot but gives body to the finished compost - and usually makes up the bulk of a compost heap. Woody items decay very slowly; they are best chopped or shredded first, where appropriate.   
A container or brown bin is not an absolute necessity as you can make perfectly good compost in a free standing heap as long as it is large enough. You will see later why this may be a drawback. Assuming then that we need to make a container we are faced with many choices.   
Why not make or buy a compost bin? Theyre usually cheap to buy, and are available in wood or recycled plastic (that might otherwise be in your local landfill site). If youre keen you could combine it with a wormery or use a shredder which increases the amount of compostable waste. Do not compost foods such as dairy produce, meat, bread etc as these attract flies and vermin.

How do I know when its done?

That depends. What was a pile of plant material will gradually, from the bottom up, turn into a pile of dark stuff that looks like brown dirt. Eventually, none of the items you put in there will be recognizable. If youre using it out in the garden, a few small recognizable bits wont hurt - theyll finish composting in the garden. If youre using it for houseplants or to start seeds, its better to wait until its well finished so you dont have microbes attacking the fine rootlets of new plants.

Dig it in to have a healthy, fertile garden and your fruit and vegetables can be organic. Dont assume the waste is harmless and bin it. Putting it in landfill costs money and it will produce methane (a global warming gas); also it may pollute the groundwater.

Compost waste often comprises about 20-30% of your total household waste and the impact on recycling is significant.

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Composting for Beginners - Do's and Don'ts, Bins and Tumblers  
By [Vicki Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) Platinum Quality Author

Lots of novice gardeners believe that their plants and vegetables only need plenty of water and sunlight in order to sustain a healthy and fruitful lifespan. However this is not entirely true as plants also need healthy soil rich in nutrients to be able to survive and grow properly. The solution to this dilemma is composting.

Now, most of us aren't too sure of what the heck composting is or what it even entails - I know I didn't! An easy way to explain it is composting is a way for us to give back to the earth by using organic materials such as food scraps, vegetable scraps, grass clippings, leaves and manure from grass eaters like cows, sheep and rabbits. In general, composting is a wonderfully organic process that benefits your garden and the environment tremendously. In today's article we'll go ahead and talk about the benefits of composting, what you should and shouldn't compost, and some composting systems you should consider investing in.

We all know that when anything dies it starts to decompose - humans, animals, plants, it's all a very natural process. But did you know that in turn, the soil becomes very rich in nutrients and new life starts to grow? That's the true benefit of composting and that's what you want for your garden. In addition to improving your soil, it saves you money, makes for terrific mulch for your garden, and places less burden on landfills.

Before you start undertaking a large composting project, there are a few key things you should keep in mind, like what you can and can't use for composting. Let's start with what you shouldn't compost; this includes weeds full of seeds and/or diseases, pesticide infested plants, wood ashes, lime, barbeque charcoal, meat, grease, bones, dairy products, cat, dog and/or human waste, plastic, metal, glass, branches, wood chunks, anything contaminated, and large loads of soggy matter. Obviously anything in the aforementioned list would have an adverse effect on your compost, or won't decompose properly, especially the bones, but we'll go more into that later on in a future article.

With that said, it's highly recommended that you use grass clippings, leaves, non-diseased and seed sprouting weeds, dead plants, food scraps like fruit and veggie wastes, cow, sheep or llama manure, straw/hay, coffee grounds, and even hair and lint when composting. These items break down quick and easily, giving you the end result that you're looking for.

The next thing that you need to keep in mind is where you're going to be doing all of this composting work. While some don't mind working on their compost heap out in the open, like in the woods or in an open area preferably away from prying eyes (I never said it was a pretty looking process), I suggest looking into a bin or tumbler system. There are a couple of compost bin systems that you should consider: the one bin and multi-bin systems. For the money conscious the one bin system is the preferred method since it is easy and most municipalities even work with manufacturers to make this method available to the public. In addition, it's easy to move about, most can hold heat well and is sturdy enough to keep rodents and other wildlife out. The multi-bin system is for households that produce a lot of waste; it generally does the same thing as the one bin method but it allows you to stockpile your materials in one bin and in the other when more materials become ready. Both methods take anywhere from three to eight months in terms of ready to use compost.

Another method you can consider is working with a compost tumbler, which isn't cheap, but it is small if you're working with limited space. Think of the benefits though: tumblers rotate which keep your compost aerated and generate heat, which in turn means that you'll have a batch of ready to use compost in about three weeks. The wire collector is another option to weigh. Great for garnering up quick, ready to use composting, it's cheap and you can even make one yourself out of rabbit wire or field fencing. However, I don't really recommend it too often because it's easy for wildlife to break in to and it doesn't hold in heat very well. But the great thing about it is after your compost is done and ready, all you have to do is just remove the wire covering.

Do keep in mind the laws of your city. You wouldn't think it, but check with your local government agency to see what your city will let you compost, like food scraps and what not. After all being cited for not composting within the legalities of your city isn't very green. And when choosing the ideal composting system, think about your needs, how much waste you can you'd regularly add to it, how animal-resistant it is, and whether you can easily remove your ready to use compost. I know it's a lot to think about before you begin, but trust me, it's well worth the effort. In our next installment I'll go ahead and talk about the science and art of composting - stay tuned!

\*Referenced from *Home Composting Made Easy* by C. Forrest McDowell, PhD and Tricia Clark-McDowell, 2002.

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| For a wide selection in [compost bins](http://www.composters.com/main_comp.html) and [rain barrels](http://www.composters.com/main_water.html) be sure to stop by Composters.com.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Vicki\_Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) |

Compost Tumblers - A Look At The Types Of Compost Tumblers  
By [J Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel)

If you are looking for a good way to make compost quickly, one of the best solutions is a compost tumbler. A tumbler has many advantages, but the one that most folks are aware of is the ability to make compost quickly and easily. Any compost pile will work faster when you turn it regularly, but a tumbler makes the process of turning the pile about as easy as it can get. When you start looking at either building or buying a compost tumbler, its good to have an understanding of the different types of tumblers available today.

**Types of Tumblers**

**Center-axle Mounted Drums.**   
  
As the name suggests, this is a style that has the drum sitting above ground, with single pole or axle that runs through the middle of the drum. The drum rotates freely about this axle, with the barrel standing vertically when the tumbler is at rest, and to turn the pile you simply rotate the drum. This is usually not too much effort, but as the compost finishes you may get it sliding to one end as you rotate, with a resulting thump. Look a the height to make sure it will work for loading and unloading for you. Some units have doors on both ends, making it easier to load and unload the unit. The Urban Compost Tumbler is an example of this style.

**Rolling Drums with a Base**   
  
This style has a barrel that sits on a base, which sits on the ground. Some styles have rollers in the base to make the rotation easier, others simply have drum rotate in a plastic base, which are not as easy to turn. The ones without rollers typically have a spot for your feet to have you push on it with your feet to turn it. Often with these the drum is rolled to a spot for loading/unloading. The Envirocyle Composter is and example of a rolling drum, which not only is a composter but will collect compost tea in the base of the unit.

**Rolling Spheres**   
  
These are different in that they don't have a base. They are simply large drums or balls that are similar to the rolling drums, but are spun by rolling around the yard. Obviously, these can be rolled to the loading and unloading spots as well. Some are not drum shapes, but generally are not truly spherical, but have some flat sides so they will stay where you put them, but occasionally that will make it difficult to steer them while rolling. An example of these is the Bio Orb.

**Crank-operated Rolling Drums**   
  
Generally considered the best of the tumbler styles, these have the drums resting on a raised frame, usually with rollers that are driven be a gear system that is hand crank operated. Because of the gearing, these are often the easiest to operate. Some of the better models even have internal baffles in the drum to improve the mixing action of the tumbling. They tend to sit higher than other models, so that a wheelbarrow can easily be used to load and unload the unit. An example of this style is the ComposTumbler, Generally these are the most expensive units, but they have the biggest capacities and are easiest to use.

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| To see a complete review of many of these compost tumblers like the [Envirocycle Compost Tumbler](http://how2compost.com/envirocycle_composter.html) and the [Urban Compost Tumbler](http://how2compost.com/urban_composter.php) go to <http://how2compost.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=J\_Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel) |

Composting for Beginners - Do's and Don'ts, Bins and Tumblers  
By [Vicki Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) Platinum Quality Author

Lots of novice gardeners believe that their plants and vegetables only need plenty of water and sunlight in order to sustain a healthy and fruitful lifespan. However this is not entirely true as plants also need healthy soil rich in nutrients to be able to survive and grow properly. The solution to this dilemma is composting.

Now, most of us aren't too sure of what the heck composting is or what it even entails - I know I didn't! An easy way to explain it is composting is a way for us to give back to the earth by using organic materials such as food scraps, vegetable scraps, grass clippings, leaves and manure from grass eaters like cows, sheep and rabbits. In general, composting is a wonderfully organic process that benefits your garden and the environment tremendously. In today's article we'll go ahead and talk about the benefits of composting, what you should and shouldn't compost, and some composting systems you should consider investing in.

We all know that when anything dies it starts to decompose - humans, animals, plants, it's all a very natural process. But did you know that in turn, the soil becomes very rich in nutrients and new life starts to grow? That's the true benefit of composting and that's what you want for your garden. In addition to improving your soil, it saves you money, makes for terrific mulch for your garden, and places less burden on landfills.

Before you start undertaking a large composting project, there are a few key things you should keep in mind, like what you can and can't use for composting. Let's start with what you shouldn't compost; this includes weeds full of seeds and/or diseases, pesticide infested plants, wood ashes, lime, barbeque charcoal, meat, grease, bones, dairy products, cat, dog and/or human waste, plastic, metal, glass, branches, wood chunks, anything contaminated, and large loads of soggy matter. Obviously anything in the aforementioned list would have an adverse effect on your compost, or won't decompose properly, especially the bones, but we'll go more into that later on in a future article.

With that said, it's highly recommended that you use grass clippings, leaves, non-diseased and seed sprouting weeds, dead plants, food scraps like fruit and veggie wastes, cow, sheep or llama manure, straw/hay, coffee grounds, and even hair and lint when composting. These items break down quick and easily, giving you the end result that you're looking for.

The next thing that you need to keep in mind is where you're going to be doing all of this composting work. While some don't mind working on their compost heap out in the open, like in the woods or in an open area preferably away from prying eyes (I never said it was a pretty looking process), I suggest looking into a bin or tumbler system. There are a couple of compost bin systems that you should consider: the one bin and multi-bin systems. For the money conscious the one bin system is the preferred method since it is easy and most municipalities even work with manufacturers to make this method available to the public. In addition, it's easy to move about, most can hold heat well and is sturdy enough to keep rodents and other wildlife out. The multi-bin system is for households that produce a lot of waste; it generally does the same thing as the one bin method but it allows you to stockpile your materials in one bin and in the other when more materials become ready. Both methods take anywhere from three to eight months in terms of ready to use compost.

Another method you can consider is working with a compost tumbler, which isn't cheap, but it is small if you're working with limited space. Think of the benefits though: tumblers rotate which keep your compost aerated and generate heat, which in turn means that you'll have a batch of ready to use compost in about three weeks. The wire collector is another option to weigh. Great for garnering up quick, ready to use composting, it's cheap and you can even make one yourself out of rabbit wire or field fencing. However, I don't really recommend it too often because it's easy for wildlife to break in to and it doesn't hold in heat very well. But the great thing about it is after your compost is done and ready, all you have to do is just remove the wire covering.

Do keep in mind the laws of your city. You wouldn't think it, but check with your local government agency to see what your city will let you compost, like food scraps and what not. After all being cited for not composting within the legalities of your city isn't very green. And when choosing the ideal composting system, think about your needs, how much waste you can you'd regularly add to it, how animal-resistant it is, and whether you can easily remove your ready to use compost. I know it's a lot to think about before you begin, but trust me, it's well worth the effort. In our next installment I'll go ahead and talk about the science and art of composting - stay tuned!

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Composting For All - Book Review  
By [Lillian Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet)

Nicki Scott released the second edition of Composting For All in 2004; obviously this is a popular publication within the UK, and it is certainly affordable. Here is one booklet that practices what it preaches - the cover is printed on 80% recycled material and the inside pages are printed on 100% recycled paper. I thought the front cover's image of mom, dad and young girl happily tending to a compost bin near their bountiful garden and lush yard was quite cute.

Thirty-two pages and seventeen chapters (including the introduction and resource sections) are filled with sketches and illustrations by Bob Gale. This short booklet explains what composting involves in a simple way and terms like vermiculture and aerobic bacteria become less confusing. Learn how to begin composting safely wit little hassle. Discover old and new composting methods from hot and cold composts, fermentation methods and vermiculture. He even discusses compost activators (those that increase decomposition process) and how to reuse an old chest freezer to make a worm bin. The booklet closes with a very small reference section for readers to contact eleven associations and publications to further their journey in waste reduction.

I enjoyed his discussion about the amazing array of life forms are supported by composting activities, and the final product that encourages healthier green spaces, gardens, balcony and roof gardens and flowerboxes in our communities. This results in a wonderful bio-support system to help the other critters that share our world, and healthy plants that clean our air.

The suggestion that most appealed to me was substituting leaf compost for peat requirements in our gardens. I had no idea that many commercially bagged compost actually contain peat. Environmentalists will tell you how important it is to avoid using peat-based products, and alternatives such as ground coconut husk have been around for some time.

Cities concerned with stressed landfills offer compost bins or worm bins to help people handle organic waste. Unfortunately the training available for citizens to use is not always readily available. This is what makes books like these so valuable to our society.

Nicki Scott has authored two booklets, one book and a video on composting and other methods we can all employ reduce waste. He has served as the chairperson for the Community Compost Network in the UK.

Author: Nicki Scott   
Illustrator: Bob Gale   
Publisher: Green books (UK)   
ISBN: 1-903998-23-9

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| ~ Lillian Brummet: co-author of the books Trash Talk and Purple Snowflake Marketing, author of Towards Understanding; host of the Conscious Discussions radio show (<http://www.brummet.ca>)  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lillian\_Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet) |

Composting is Living in Harmony with Nature  
By [Lisa Marshall](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lisa_Marshall)

It is that time of year when the leaves will soon begin to fall. If you prefer to not allow the leaves to naturally decompose on the earth then what can you do with them? Instead of filling bag after bag and setting them on the curb to head out to the landfill is there an alternative?

Living in rural areas most my life there was never any question as to what to do with leaves, yard waste or kitchen scraps. It was just part of the natural process to allow the leaves and yard waste to go back into the earth. Kitchen scraps were often taken out to the wildlife or composted. It never really occurred to me how important this was until a couple years ago when I found myself in an urban living situation. It seemed that I could no longer give back to Mother Earth in the same way. People raked their yards and bagged up the leaves to send to the dump.

There is an alternative you know, even for the urbanites. Of course there are many rural folks who may not being taking advantage of the benefits either. These are the benefits of composting. Composting is the natural process of decaying organic matter and using the changed material for fertilizing. Composting is natural. Mother Nature has her own system of composting that we can learn from. By not living in harmony with nature we upset natures balance.

By beginning to compost our kitchen scraps and yard waste we can help enrich the soil, help keep nature in balance and have an amazing free organic fertilizer for gardens, flower beds, trees and lawns. When the natural balance of your soil is healthy this helps pests to stay away from the plants and they become healthier too. You can garden organically without using chemical fertilizers, growth enhancers and "stay away bug" dusts. You will also be saving space in the landfill because the organic waste will be transformed into something so useful.

Even people in apartments or various urban living situations can compost. The benefits are huge. The kitchen scraps that you will add are raw fruit and veggies, egg shells, coffee grinds and tea bags. You want to keep meats, fats, pastas and cooked food out of your compost making to keep it in balance. You can also add outdoor leaves, lawn clippings and plant cuttings that haven't went to seed.

You can learn more about composting at your local library or the internet. There are a variety of different styles of composting crocks or compost buckets that can be used in your kitchen to contain the scraps until you are ready to add them to your outdoor compost pile. Some are stylish and others are simple buckets with a lid and carbon filters to contain the smell. You can add the scraps every few days or so to the outdoor pile.

For the outdoors you will need a compost bin or [spinning composter](http://www.naturecentered.com/index.php?search=Natures%20Home) . You can build your own bin which is pretty simple or purchase a tumbler which is very convenient. The tumblers are especially good for urban areas because they are nice and neat for you as well as the neighbours. They are pest resistant and are easy to turn to keep the compost aerated for quicker compost making.

Anytime is a great time to begin [composting](http://www.naturecentered.com/index.php?search=Composting). But maybe this fall you will think twice about those leaves and the alternatives. Be green and eco conscious and lets live in harmony with nature. Happy composting!

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| Lisa R. Marshall is the facilitator of Nature Centered . Nature Centered is a space to share information and resources for living in harmony with Nature and one another. Honoring life through whole health, herbal healing, simplified living & compassionate communication. For more information or to contact the author you may visit <http://www.naturecentered.com/>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lisa\_Marshall](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lisa_Marshall) |

Keyword: [composting leaves]

Leaves and Composting  
By [Enid Edginton](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Enid_Edginton) Platinum Quality Author

When it comes to leaves and composting the thing to remember is that they are the main things that you should have in your composting heap or bin. This is because leaves are very high in carbon. The ratio of carbon to nitrogen in your composting heap or bin should be 25 to 1 in favor of the leaves. Other carbon rich materials such as wood chips and sawdust can also be mixed in there but only if the wood chips and sawdust is from an organic source. Gardening experts say that you should avoid fertilizing your garden with sawdust made from very old tree stumps as they contain some viruses that could kill plants like hostas. You should also avoid using woodchips that have been varnished or treated with pesticides in any way, as they will also leach toxins into your soil. Furthermore wood that has been treated or varnished often won’t degrade and you will end up tossing it out of the compost heap anyway.

As leaves are going to represent a large percentage of the total waste in your bin or heap you need to find some kind of way to shred them or grind them down. The best thing to do is just simply lay them out on your lawn and mow them again and again with your lawn mower until they are little chips. You can also speed the decaying process of the leaves along by laying them out on your driveway to dry in the sun and then crumble them onto your compost heap. This helps the compost degrade faster. Yet another solution is to put them through an electric shredder or wood chipper if you happen to have one.

Are there any leaves that are inappropriate to use when it comes to leaves and composting? There are a few types of leaves that are too tough and leathery and just won’t break down in a composter. This includes the leaves from some shiny ivies, oak, holly trees and southern magnolia. You should also avoid putting in leaves from sumach, poison ivy or poison oak trees, as that will make the compost very difficult for you to handle. Yet another problem is that waste from sumach, poison ivy or poison oak can contain seeds that can spread the itchy plants to the soil in your garden once the composted material is placed there. You should also avoid using the leaves of eucalyptus trees in compost as when they degrade they become toxic to other plants.

Although they are technically leaves, you should avoid putting pine needles in your compost. This is because pine needles have a waxy resin type coating that prolongs the disintegration process. Once again you will probably end up fishing them out of your composting pile when they refuse to degrade.

If you are mixing compost with grass clippings keep in mind that you will need a lot of leaves or they won’t degrade properly. The grass will just start to smell rank and the compost will be acidic and unbalanced. This is because grass clipping are full of nitrogen. You should also be careful not to add grass clippings that are covered with pesticides as these could leach into the soil. This is especially important if you are trying to use the compost to fertilize an organic vegetable garden.

Remember that it takes twenty five times more leaves than grass to make balanced compost that is full of healthy aerobic organisms. The same principle also applies to kitchen waste. If you end up adding too much kitchen waste or grass clippings to a compost heap made of leaves then you can amend it by adding a bit of sawdust or manure.

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| Learn [how to make compost](http://www.binsforcompost.com/howtomakecompost.htm) at [Bins for Compost](http://www.binsforcompost.com).  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Enid\_Edginton](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Enid_Edginton) |  |

Why Compost and How to Make It  
By [Christine Wilhelm](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Christine_Wilhelm)

**Benefits of Compost**:   
Compost is one of the best soil nutrients you can add to your vegetable, herb or flower garden. It serves as both fertilizer and mulch, breaking up heavy clay soil and making it drain better, and helping hold in valuable moisture in sandy soils.

**How to make Compost**:   
Ideally choose a location for your compost pile that is near your kitchen and garden as you'll be more likely to feed the pile with kitchen scraps that way. A compost pile can be a simple pile of grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste, a container made specifically for composting, or a more complex 3-bin system. A simple pile will take up to a year to break down into compost, as opposed to an enclosed pile taking 2 to 3 months. You'll want to turn the pile occasionally, so it's most convenient to leave one side open for access. Some people use a 3-bin system, so you can turn contents of 1 bin into the 2nd bin, and the 3rd bin holds the compost that is ready to go.

For the fastest breakdown of the material, add 1 part green materials to 2 parts brown materials, then mix together, and add some finished compost. Adding finished compost will get the pile working, as it is full of microorganisms. Compost starters can be purchased if you don't have finished compost on hand. The pile should be kept moist like a wrung out sponge, not too wet and not too dry for optimal breakdown. If heavy rains make the pile too wet, just add more brown material. Turn the pile about once a week for good air flow. Finished compost will be a dark brown color and smell earthy.

Examples of green materials (rich in nitrogen): coffee grounds, dead-headed flowers, grass, hair, kitchen scraps, manure, plant tops, sea weed, weeds.

Examples of brown materials (carbon-rich materials): cardboard, dried leaves, hay, paper, straw, wood chips, wood ashes.

**NEVER ADD these materials**: chemically treated grass or weeds, coal ashes or charcoal, diseased plants, meats, oils, pet waste.   
Meats and cooking oils will attract pests. Weeds with stubborn root systems that have gone to seed shouldn't be used as they may not all be killed off by composting. Black walnut tree leaves should also not be added as they contain a plant poison that survives composting; eucalyptus leaves, poison oak, poison ivy and sumac for the same reason.

**Helpful Tips**:   
\* Add some brown material over kitchen scraps to keep down flies   
\* Grind up your kitchen scraps and add some water to speed composting   
\* Banana peels break down quickly and are excellent for composting   
\* Egg shells are best crushed before adding as they break down slowly otherwise   
\* Keep kitchen scraps in a plastic bag in the refrigerator until you have enough to take to the pile; keeps it from getting smelly   
\* Mow or grind up larger leaves to speed decomposition   
\* Pine needles also need to be chopped or shredded as they break down very slowly   
\* Large quantities of grass clippings can be dried in the sun for a few hours before adding them to the pile to cut down on the sour smell.

Composting may seem complicated at first, but once you get the hang of what can and can't be used on the pile, it is quite simple and very helpful for your gardening.

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| Chris Wilhelm  <http://blog.werelivingwell.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Christine\_Wilhelm](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Christine_Wilhelm) | Christine Wilhelm - EzineArticles Expert Author |

Keyword: [how to make a compost bin]

Selecting a Compost Bin  
By [Jessica Monta](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jessica_Monta)

If you're interested in composting, and you'd prefer to use a compost bin to keeping a compost heap, you will find that there are many styles to choose from. Each type of compost bin offers effective ways to transform biodegradable waste into rich, usable soil. You just need to decide which features are most important to you.

The enclosed single bin is the most basic type of compost bin. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and are very good for people with limited yard space. They effectively keep out odors, animals, and rain with durable lids. The simplest form of composting, all biodegradable wastes is thrown into the enclosed single bin; while it's simple, effective, and extremely low maintenance, this method can take as long as 6 months to 2 years to decompose.

The multi-bin method is a highly effective way to compost for those with large gardens, an abundance of biodegradable waste, or community gardens. Typically the method uses 3 bins that contain waste at various stages of decomposition. On a smaller scale, there are now several compost bin models that employ this method through one single bin that requires attention and turning. This method, though not as low maintenance as the enclosed single bin, produces faster results.

Compost tumblers are variations of the single bin model. Essentially, it's a single spherically shaped compost bin that rests on a frame that the owner turns for quicker decomposition. The low maintenance compost tumblers produce results efficiently and with low maintenance. Much like the enclosed single compost bin, it is good for people limited on space.

Worm bins are the way to go for people interested in vermicomposting. This form of composting is good for food scraps only. Worm bins are ideal for people in apartments or with limited space because they can be kept indoor or outdoor. This small variation of the compost bin can be as small as a bin kept under the kitchen sink. The worms have lunch on your food scraps and the result is rich organic soil that can be used year round. While it seems less than appealing to some to keep worms in your kitchen, these bins are well constructed to prevent insects and pets from getting in and odors from getting out of the bin.

When it comes to composting, every model of [compost bin](http://www.composters.com/compost-bins.php) has its advantage. You simply need to think about your composting needs and your ability to maintain in order to make a well informed decision about which compost bin works for you.

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| Composters.com is an online retailer of eco-friendly compost bins, compost tumblers, [rain barrel](http://www.composters.com/rain-barrels.php), and various composting supplies.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Jessica\_Monta](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jessica_Monta) |

Compost Bins For a Better Environment & How Composting Can Help You  
By [Adriana Copaceanu](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Adriana_Copaceanu) Platinum Quality Author

Compost is a great garden fertilizer, containing several nutrients for your garden. Not only is it a necessary addition to the soil in your yard or garden, it's also the perfect way to get rid of your food scraps, yard clippings, leaves, manure, pine needles, dryer lint, and even cardboard and papers you need to get rid of.

There is so much waste in our modern society that it is quite hard to believe. Who would have thought that so many people wouldn't give a second thought to throwing many items away? Well, the landfills are overflowing and it's time to take a stand using your very own backyard.

You can make your backyard better by starting a compost bin. This will reduce your overall household waste and free up the landfills for the things that done have another home. Compost bins are great because they contain biodegradable food scraps.

Some people think that since the food is biodegradable that it is no problem at all to throw it away. The trouble is that some of these foods take a lot longer than others. Many people don't see the problem with doing this, so tons and tons of food is thrown away each day.

One of the main problems is that people only consider the trash that they are throwing away. When you consider that your neighbor, their neighbor, and everyone else's neighbor are doing it too you get a different perspective on the issue.

For one thing the food that is decomposing may emit methane gas. Methane is one of the leading causes of global warming which is something that definitely needs to be reversed. Every little bit helps, so be sure to do your part to prevent even more global warming problems.

Despite the reasons that benefit society as a whole, you can benefit on an individual level as well.

1. Get a compost bin and place it in your garden.

2. You can put fruit and vegetables in as well as other plants. These all biodegrade very quickly.

3. Amazingly, you can even include paper and cardboard shredding. Don't hesitate to put these in your compost bin for a better backyard. They will help to create air pockets, which helps the other things to decompose better.

4. Want to know how you benefit? As these things break down and decompose, they will produce nutrients for your plants!

You need to make sure to keep your children and animals away from the compost bin as much as possible.

When you and I decide to compost, we not only benefit ourselves and our households, but we also help our environment. Everyone benefits: compost bins are inexpensive (or even free, if you decide to build your own compost bin with scraps you saved from other projects), your overall household waste will be reduced which is a wonderful goal to have, and our planet gets a break from having to hold some of our family's debris.

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| To learn how you can create a [beautiful & unique backyard](http://www.betterbackyards.com/), please visit <http://www.betterbackyards.com/>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Adriana\_Copaceanu](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Adriana_Copaceanu) |

Homemade Compost Bins  
By [Darrell Feltmate](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Darrell_Feltmate) Platinum Quality Author

Homemade compost bins can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. In fact it is not necessary to build one at all. Compost can be made quite well in a pile or a series of piles. On the other hand there are advantages to a bin or system of bins. They allow for a more organized systematic approach to composting, they look better than a loose pile and may be mandatory in some municipalities. If they are mandatory in your area there may be conditions imposed on what you can build. Be sure to check before you start.

A compost pile to be effective should be three feet wide and high and at least three feet deep so that is the start of the measurements for the bin. One of the simplest bins takes a 10 foot length of welded wire fencing three feet high. Once it is wrapped in a circle it makes a bin. To turn the pile once the bin is full, in theory it can be lifted off the pile and the material turned into the bin. In reality the compost material holds the fencing in place and it is hard to move. It is better to have prepared the fencing in the first place so it can be opened and unwrapped from the pile.

It has become fashionable in some areas to make a compost bin from recycled pallets. Three of them on a side make the sides and back of the bin. They can be tied together with twine or nailed together for a more permanent setup. With a bit of ingenuity they can be extended to a three or more bin connected system.

Still others have taken concrete blocks and dry set them one on top of the other so as to make a bin. This is particularly fashionable in some suburban areas where the compost pile will be visible to neighbors and passers by. Staggering the blocks allows for better aeration. Again the system can be used to make one bin or a system of bins.

Obviously there are as many ways to make a compost bin as there are imaginations of gardeners the world over. Consider however, the desired system as much as the construction. A hot composting system is best served with at least three bins; one to build the pile and two to turn the pile back and forth. Cold composting will want an easy way to add composting materials to the top of the pile and finished compost from the bottom. Either system requires a way to easily access the compost.

Which ever system you use, fix up a homemade compost bin and get the compost coming for the best garden ever.

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| Darrell Feltmate is an avid gardener who has been composting and gardening for over 25 years with gardens up to 1/2 acre and compost piles for each. His composting site may be found at [Compost Central](http://aroundthewoods.com/compostcentral). You can be a master composter in no time at all.  Much of his compost uses wood shavings from his wood turning hobby. The site for wood turning may be found at [Around the Woods](http://aroundthewoods.com).  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Darrell\_Feltmate](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Darrell_Feltmate) |

How To Build a Compost Bin  
By [Paul Duxbury](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Paul_Duxbury) Platinum Quality Author

Compost can act as a great fertilizer, enriching the soil with organic materials rather than making use of chemicals that can do more harm than good if used badly. Composting is a great way to save money as well. Using compost requires that you completely mix it into the soil, reducing compaction and providing oxygenation to the soil. Compost can help plants stay healthier, and that contributes to their ability to repel diseases and survive insect attacks. A healthy landscape can be achieved with a little help from composting.

It is critical to note that composting does require a little extra work. The mound needs to be turned, and you need to make certain that you have adequate break down of the items in your compost pile. You need to be selective in what you put in your compost: it ought only be items that will break down naturally. Plant matter (including pulled weeds) and various foods are excellent in compost and will add to the health of your soil, and so to your landscape over all. There is no reason, though, that your compost pile needs to be a true pile. A bin can help you better hold your compost and preserve it from being spread across your compound in a smelly mess by animals or a really ferocious downpour.

The first thing you need to do before you set up a compost bin is decide what your needs are. Numerous people in reality use a three-bin combination. The bins may be connected, or they may be individually lined up. Some people use the bins for distinct types of compost (regular compost, slow compost like woody plants, and leaves collected in the fall). Others like to have a three-bin system for the turning purposes. Move the compost from one bin into the next, allowing it to turn. Then you can start a pile in the newly vacated bin. By the time the compost makes it into the third bin, it is ready for use. Others find that a single bin is adequate for their needs, and just go out to stir it throughout now and then.

Next you need to decide what materials you will use to construct your bin. It is vital to note that some exposure to the elements is essential for more productive and quicker composting. Chicken wire is not especially good for compost bins as it can extend out of shape extremely readily and does not wear well. Materials like 16-guage plastic-coated wire mesh and hardware cloth are better choices, as is hog wire. Wood makes an interesting choice, but it is critical to note that it will eventually compost itself and will need to be replaced. Do not used pressure-treated wood, as it has poisonous levels of copper and chromium, and there is evidence that arsenic can leach into your compost. Different materials that are acceptable for building compost bins are spoiled hay bales, old cinder blocks or bricks, wooden pallets, snow fencing, and a discarded rabbit hutch. The hutch is desirable because there is very little that needs to be done to make it ready.

One of the easiest and cheapest ways to build a compost bin is to build it from wooden pallets. Most warehouses, grocery, and hardware stores are more than happy to give these away for free, or for very inexpensive, as it saves them the trouble of having to discard them. You can use plastic ties to hold four of them together in a box shape. Joining another bin to make a system is easy: just attach three more pallets using one side of the already made bin to complete another box. Be warned: after about two years you will need a new bin, as this bin will be composting itself.

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| Paul offers more gardening and landscaping advice at <http://lawn-care.blogspot.com> and <http://landscaping-ideas.blogspot.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Paul\_Duxbury](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Paul_Duxbury) |

How To Build A Compost Bin  
By [Anthony Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) Platinum Quality Author

For those of you with pesky neighbors who don't appreciate big piles of yard waste rotting in plain sight, there is the compost bin. The compost bin keeps your compost neat and tidy. Choosing the right type of bin for you is less about your composting needs and more about your personal preference. Your compost won't know the difference between being piled in a corner and rotting away behind the custom built cedar doors of a multi-bin setup.

The simplest compost bin you can build is to not build one at all. It's not an option for all of us but those in the country with lots of acreage can just stack up their yard waste in a pile.

Another easy option for a compost bin is to purchase a length of temporary wire fencing such as chicken wire, rabbit fencing or whatever you can get your hands on. Hammer a few posts in the ground so that the fence holds it's shape and stands upright and attach the fence with string or wire. Start filling it up with leaves and grass clippings and that's it you're done.

This last option will take the longest to build but will also last the longest and look the best. Compost will rot the quickest if it's in a pile at least 4'x4'x4'. That's four feet wide by four feet long by four feet deep. So building a cube out of four foot 2x4's is a great way to make a compost bin. Connect the four foot sections at the corners of the cube with galvanized nails or screws and then attach some of that wire fencing that was mentioned above, to the sides with heavy duty wood staples. As your needs for compost grow, build another cube and place it next to your first one. Now you have a multi-bin system. Start your compost in the first bin and as it decomposes move it to the next bin. Moving your compost to a new bin is a great way to aerate it.

Stay away from pressure treated lumber and just realize that your bin will rot in about 5-10 years. Seems fitting that a compost bin will eventually turn to compost itself.

Whether you take a wire fence and bend it into a circle or you break out your woodworking skills and create a masterpiece, your compost bin will help you keep your garden healthy and happy.

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| Anthony Tripodi is the webmaster of WatchItRot.com - The Compost Guide. For more information about [building a compost bin](http://www.watchitrot.com/), visit <http://www.watchitrot.com>.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Anthony\_Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) |

Building a Compost Bin – The Secret Plan Revealed!  
By [Eddy Lam](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Eddy_Lam) Platinum Quality Author

**Building a compost bin** can be a fun and challenging project for the family. And, at the same time it allows you to help save the environment.

A compost bin is basically a “container” for turning waste organic material such as fruit and vegetable peelings, leaves and grass clippings into compost so that they can be used as fertilizers or to improve soil quality.

There are basically 2 bin systems which many people use. One is the 3 bin system whereby the bins are either connected or individually lined up. The purpose is to use different bins for different types of composts such as regular compost, slow compost like woody plants or leaves collected in fall.

Yet another purpose of the 3 bin system is to move the compost from 1 bin to the next, allowing it to turn. Each bin is for compost at a different stage of decay. And, when the compost makes it to the third bin, it is ready for use.

The other bin system is the simple 1 bin system where it is one size fits all.

Before *building a compost bin*, you may wish to consider using materials like a 16-guage plastic-coated wire mesh and hardware cloth. Other choices include the hog wire spoiled hay bales, old cinder blocks or bricks, wooden pallets, snow fencing, and a discarded rabbit hutch Do not used pressure-treated wood, as it has toxic levels of copper and chromium, and it can potentially poison your compost.

One of the easiest and cheapest ways to build a compost bin is to construct it from wooden pallets. You can easily get them from grocery, hardware stores, and warehouses. Use plastic ties to hold four pallets together in a box formation. If you are going for a 3 bin system, simply add another bin by attaching 3 more pallets using one side of the already made bin to complete another box.

Do note that this simple to build compost bin will be composting itself in 2 years’ time. Well, by that time, it’s time to have fun **building a compost bin** again!

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| For even more FREE compost bins information, go to [How to Build a Compost Bin](http://www.topcompostbins.com/how-to-build-a-compost-bin.html). For a compost bin design, check out [Compost Bin Design](http://www.topcompostbins.com/compost-bin-design.html). For more information on compost bins, be sure to visit [Top Compost Bins](http://www.topcompostbins.com).  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Eddy\_Lam](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Eddy_Lam) |

Keyword: [kitchen compost]

Kitchen Compost Crock  
By [Anthony Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) Platinum Quality Author

I keep garbage on my kitchen counter and I'm proud of it. Used coffee grinds, tea bags, vegetable peels, leftovers and even some of my junk mail. No, I'm not a disgusting slob, I'm a kitchen composter.

During the winter, it's not always fun to take food scraps out to the compost bin. Most people keep their compost bins far away from their houses. Usually they’re hidden in a corner of the yard somewhere. This means that you can't just poke your head outside and toss stuff in. During the winter taking kitchen scraps out to the compost bin definitely becomes a shoes and coat required affair. Buying a Compost Crock is a great way cut down on the wintery treks through snow and ice to your compost bin.

It's nice to have a container right there on your counter to toss garbage into. Mostly I use it for coffee grinds and egg shells but other kitchen waste stuff would be fine too. Just avoid things like meat and fat. Most crocks kind of look like cookie jars so you won’t mind having it on the your kitchen counter. Some even have a carbon filter in the lid so they don’t even smell bad.

With a kitchen composter you aren’t actually making compost in the crock but it’s a helpful container to store compostables that you’ll eventually take out to your compost bin. And if you don’t have a compost bin, then what are you waiting for? Compost is one of the best things that you could add to your vegetable garden or flower beds. Even indoor plants will benefit from compost being added to their post.

If you're tired of battling winter weather to get to your compost bin then perhaps a kitchen compost crock is for you. They’re attractive, they don’t smell bad and they can help you compost all year long.

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| When Anthony Tripodi isn’t gardening, he’s usually [making compost](http://compostbin.blogspot.com) and writing about it on his blog, <http://compostbin.blogspot.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Anthony\_Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) |

Urban Composting  
By [Beth Comer](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Beth_Comer) Platinum Quality Author

Composting indoors turns your kitchen waste into rich compost for your plants and garden. Even if you live in an apartment or high-rise building, you can compost using an indoor, automatic composter.

**Urban Composting**  
  
Most people have heard of using a compost keeper, such as a pail or bucket, to accumulate kitchen scraps that can then be used in a backyard composter or compost bin. But what if you don't have a yard? Now there is an indoor compost machine that runs on electricity (as little as 50 cents per month) that will turn your kitchen waste into rich compost. Nature Mill makes an automatic kitchen compost machine that makes indoor composting easy. Simply add your kitchen waste (see the chart below for what can be composted) and some brown materials (such as sawdust or coffee grounds) and remove the finished compost every two weeks. The machine itself, when used properly, produces little or no odors due to its sealed design and air filter.

When the compost is removed, you will need to cure it outdoors before using it in your indoor plants. This can be accomplished using a tarp on a balcony or rooftop. If you are using the compost outdoors, there is no need to cure it before use.

**What to do with the compost**  
  
Once the compost is cured it can be used on your indoor plants. However, you may have more compost than plants. Compost can also be used in a garden or on the lawn. If you have more compost than you personally need don't fret, there are others who would love to have it. You can give your compost to a friend or donate it to a local park, landscaper, or garden center. They will be grateful!

**What kitchen items go into compost**  
  
With experience, you will get a feel of what composts well and what does not. A good rule of thumb is that any material that you can recognize in the final compost should be avoided in the future, or cut into smaller pieces first. Certain materials, such as meat, fish, and dairy, can be used in indoor composters, but not outdoor composters where rats, raccoons, and bears can be a problem.

Some items compost better than others. Coffee grinds decompose easily. When in doubt, add just a little and then check the end result carefully! Listed below is a general chart of what can be used in an automatic kitchen compost machine.

RECOMMENDED materials   
  
Add a mix of "green" and "brown" items:   
"Green" items:   
  
· fruit, vegetable scraps   
  
· meat, chicken, fish   
  
· fish bones, shrimp tails   
  
· cheese, eggs, egg shells   
  
· tea leaves, tea bags   
  
· grass & plant clippings

"Brown" items:   
  
· sawdust, wood shavings (untreated, unpainted wood)   
  
· bread, rice, pasta, grains   
  
· nuts, nut shells, straw   
  
· dry flowers, small yard leaves   
  
· coffee grounds, paper filters

NOT RECOMMENDED materials:   
  
· pourable liquid, chemicals, soap, cosmetics, medicine   
  
· plastic, metal, glass, rubber, alcohol, cigarettes   
  
· office paper, newspaper, magazines   
  
· hard or fibrous items: chicken & steak bones, lobster & clam shells, wine corks, avocado & peach pits, corn cobs & husks, coconut shells, lemongrass   
  
· diseased foods, human waste, disposable diapers   
  
· limit very acidic items to 2 lbs (900g) per load: oranges, grapes, berries, plums, pickles, tomatoes   
  
· 1-2 piece limit for lemon, lime, grapefruit, pineapple

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| Indoor composting machines have opened the door to urban dwellers to actively engage in composting. To see more details on the Nature Mill machines, please visit my website (<http://www.backto-nature.com>).  This article was written by Beth Comer. Please visit our website for organic/natural lawn care products (<http://www.backto-nature.com>) or for controlling ground moles visit <http://www.moleinator.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Beth\_Comer](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Beth_Comer) |

Container Compost  
By [Larry Gildea](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Larry_Gildea) Platinum Quality Author

The reason most people need to keep container gardens is because they don't have the room, backyard or dirt space for full-fledged gardens. Because of that, many people also don't have the luxury of keeping a full-size compost bin for creating the best potting and compost mixes for their plants or flowers. A container compost bin or bucket is just the answer to those with space problems.

Most people don't realize that roughly 30% of waste from residential and apartment homes comes from the kitchen or the yard and ends up in county landfills. Much of that waste is organic matter than can be converted into compost for gardening purposes. Even though you don't have a huge vegetable or flower garden doesn't mean that you can't take advantage of even a small compost bin to help "green" the environment around you.

Using a regular metal bucket or trash can with a lid will work for a container garden size compost supply, as will any number of plastic or woods bins and containers that you can purchase from your local gardening center or home improvement store. Such containers don't take up a lot of space and can sit in a corner of your patio, balcony or yard.

What do you put in your compost container?

Start with yard clippings such as grass and shrubs and cut-offs and dead leaves from houseplants and flowers. You can also add most of your kitchen scraps, like egg shells, coffee grounds, vegetable and fruit peels and scraps. Lining a small bucket or container with a plastic bag will not only reduce the chance of smelling up your kitchen, but will make using the compost easier when it is ready.

There are a number of items that you don't want to add to your compost container, such as meat scraps, bones or fish parts. Avoid tossing in any types of fatty foods like cheeses, butters or salad dressing or other oils. Never toss in animal wastes or plants that look diseased or may be infested with pests, nor weeds.

People that keep container gardens generally don't have the room, backyard or dirt space for full-fledged gardens. Since they keep container gardens, these people don't have the luxury of keeping a full-size compost bin. A container compost bin or bucket is just the answer to those with space problems.

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| Dr.Larry Gildea has authored several articles on gardening. Dr. Gildea has created these gardening websites, <http://www.gardeningbonanza.com>  Gardening Bonanza.com covers many types of gardening, including, bonsai design and cultivation, container gardening, flower gardening, rose gardening, hydroponics gardening and several others - <http://www.organicgardensystems.com>  Organic Garden Systems.com is dedicated exclusively to organic gardening. And in his blog, <http://larryseasygardening.com>  Dr. Gildea discusses all types of gardening.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Larry\_Gildea](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Larry_Gildea) |

Keyword: tumbler compost bin

Compost Tumblers - Pros And Cons Of Compost Tumblers  
By [J Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel)

Compost tumblers eliminate much of the work required to keep a compost pile going. But the beauty of the concept is not only that it simplifies the work required, but it accelerates the whole process as well.

Here's some of the advantages of using a compost tumbler.

Easy Rotation

One of the requirements of accelerated composting is the constant rotation of the pile. This rotation helps keep a steady supply of fresh material rotating through the center of the pile, which is where the hottest action is going on in the pile. Conversely, on the edge of the pile or bin, it tends to dry out more quickly and not heat up as much, so for fast composting turning or rotation is a must. By simplifying the chore of rotation by making it a simple act like spinning a drum or rotating a tumbler not only is it less work, but you are more likely to do it regularly since it's easier.

Moisture Conservation

With its enclosed sides, both a tumbler and a compost bin will do a better job of retaining moisture. But, almost as importantly, a tumbler or a bind will do a good job of keeping out excess moisture from rain or even lawn sprinklers. This is equally important because a pile that's too wet can start to smell, and it will reduced the effectiveness of the pile as well.

Garden Pests

With all the fresh garbage and refuse that make up a compost pile, it's inevitable that it will attract pests if we don't take some preventative measures. Compost tumblers, in particular the above ground models, make it much more difficult for pests to get into the pile, with both the climb and the enclosed sides working for you.

Loading the Bin

The effort to load and unload a tumbler varies quite a bit depending on the design. If the door of the tumbler is high enough it can be easily unloaded into a wheelbarrow. Some of the tumbler models that roll on the ground are relatively easy to load, but if you don't plan to unload it by simply dumping the compost directly on the garden then you may find it's much more difficult to empty this type.

A Tidy Compost Pile

While individual tastes will vary, and many gardeners don't mind a free standing compost pile ( in fact consider it a badge of honor), many gardeners will prefer something that looks a little neater. An enclosed bin like a compost tumbler will give a cleaner, tidy look to that corner of your garden

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| For more information on composting, including a look at the different [types of compost tumblers](http://how2compost.com/compost_tumbler_types.php) and a look at several composting solutions like the [Earth Machine Composter](http://how2compost.com/earth_machine.php) go to <http://how2compost.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=J\_Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel) |

Compost Bins vs Compost Tumblers  
By [Vicki Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong)

When starting to compost, one must ask, which exactly is better the compost bin or the compost tumbler? Really, it all depends on who you ask and what their current lifestyle is like. For instance, does this person have the time to commit to their compost and garden? More importantly, do you? Whatever your answer will be may well dictate whether you'll go with purchasing a compost bin or tumbler. Let's take a few factors into considerations to help you decide:

Compost bins are easy to use and are just as easy to put together with little parts or none at all. Popular compost bins like the Garden Gourmet and the Expandable Worm Tower, both which can be found on Composters.com, require little parts and take no more than 20 minutes to put together. Those who use bins find it both therapeutic and satisfying to be personally turning their compost with a pitchfork; no one ever said that a little bit of the outdoors could hurt you! For composting bins like the Expandable Worm Tower, it's the worms that do most of the work. All you would have to do is take the finished compost that the worms have produced (known as worm castings, black gold, or even just rich soil), distribute it around the soil of your garden, fill up the trays with more organic matter and dirt and repeat!

As easy and efficient that compost bins are, they can get a bit messy at times. What if you happen to have a compost bin unlike the Expandable Worm Tower or Garden Gourmet where it's easy to evacuate the finished compost? You may have to manually dump the finished compost into a wheel barrel, where it can get a bit chaotic and messy. Unless you have no other commitments and plenty of time on your hand, compost bins may not be the way to go.

A bit more expensive but perhaps worth the extra cash, compost tumblers are ideal for those who don't have as much time but would still love to have the resulting rich soil for their garden. What's great about having a compost tumbler is that there's no need to manually turn the compost. The whole point of a tumbler is that you can easily rotate it via a crank or just by spinning it, therefore aerating the compost inside. The con about tumblers, however, is that they too can get messy especially if you have to roll it around the yard when the compost it not yet ready. Additionally, you may have to purchase the compost tea collector separately, depending on the model.

When it comes down to it, it's really about personal preference. I've mentioned repeatedly that things could get messy, but that's the beauty of composting; you're allowed to get down and dirty! Whatever the decision you make, be sure to take your lifestyle and commitments in consideration to ensure a successful composting experience.

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| For a large selection of [compost tumblers](http://www.composters.com/compost-tumblers.php) and [lawn sweepers](http://www.composters.com/lawn-care.php), be sure to stop by Composters.com.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Vicki\_Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) |

Compost Tumblers - Gardeners Love Them  
By [Anthony Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) Platinum Quality Author

If you’re looking to turn your garbage into gardener’s gold and do it in a hurry, then you should try a compost tumbler. If you have a compost bin then you know how great it is to add compost to your flower beds and vegetable garden. But making compost takes time and it’s usually in short supply. A compost tumbler is a great time saver when making compost.

Some gardeners believe that compost is better than fertilizer because it doesn’t just feed your plants, it also improves your soil. Improving your soil keeps your plants healthier so they grow stronger and more capable of fighting off diseases or beating droughts. Compost is decomposed organic matter and is high in nutrients that plants love. Bacteria and other micro organisms help break down that decomposing organic matter and their short life cycles become part of the process itself. When they reproduce their offspring continue the process while the parents bodies break down and add to the organic matter. It’s nature’s way of recycling.

Creating compost will usually take a couple of months. If you get the ratio of browns to greens right, turn the pile to keep it aerated and don’t let it dry out you’ll be rewarded with fresh earthy compost. The more you tend your compost pile, the quicker your garden waste will become compost. Neglect the pile and it will still become compost but it’ll take a lot longer. For an example of this examine the rich soil in a forest. As leaves and tree litter fall to the ground, there isn’t anyone there making sure it’s the same wetness as a wrung out sponge. But by the time the next season rolls around, a lot of those leaves have begun decomposing and in the process, they’re feeding the trees and the cycle continues without any help from man.

The gardening season can be very short depending on where you live. In the Northeast we have about 4 months of time to grow the flowers, fruits and vegetables that we love. So unless you have a huge bin of compost ready to go on the first day of spring you’ll need some more during the growing season. A compost tumbler is perfect for making compost fast. Now you probably won’t make enough compost to fill new beds but the amount you can make is perfect to give your plants and nice top dressing.

Or if you are a composter with a pest problem, the compost tumbler will keep the critters out of your pile. The most popular tumblers are sealed up and only have holes for air. If rodents or snakes have been problems for you in the past then the compost tumbler is the solution that you’ve been looking for.

There’s a few things you’ll need to do a little differently if you’re used to bin composting. First off, you’ll need to add all the raw materials at once. Don’t continue adding or else your compost will never be done. Add what you want and then start turning. Try to turn it everyday. If not everyday then at least a few times a week. The first few batches will take the longest unless you already have some compost that you can toss into the tumbler. Or you can use a compost activator. That’s all activators really are anyway. Just someone’s else’s compost to help get your pile started. The bacteria and micro organisms have to get in there somehow.

Be sure not to over water when using a compost tumbler. Moisture doesn’t escape as easily inside the tumbler as with a regular compost bin. And most likely your ingredients such as grass clippings or coffee grinds were already moist to begin with.

After about 3 weeks the compost should start to look like compost. It should be an even color and you shouldn’t be able to tell what you put in the tumbler. If your waste is still recognizable then let it decompose a while longer. And don’t forget to smell your compost. It should have a nice earthy smell to it.

If you’re looking for a neat & compact composting solution that works quickly and won’t receive a lot of attention from your neighbors, then look into a compost tumbler. You’ll be tumbling your way to a great garden this season.

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| Anthony Tripodi is the webmaster of WatchItRot.com - The Compost Guide. For more information about [Compost Tumblers](http://www.watchitrot.com/) and all of your composting and gardening needs, please visit <http://www.watchitrot.com>.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Anthony\_Tripodi](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Anthony_Tripodi) |

Low Cost Compost Bins - Buying An Inexpensive Composter  
By [J Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel) Platinum Quality Author

For most gardeners there are times of the year when the garden is creating a lot of waste that is best used to create compost and kept out of the landfills. If you have spent anytime gardening, you know the benefits from composting both to your garden and to the overall ecosystem we live in. The problem is not convincing you to compost, but to find ways to do it easily but without taking a large chunk of change from your wallet.

There are a host of ways that you can build your own compost bin or bins. You can find plans that teach you how to do it with concrete blocks, or we've all seen some that use shipping pallets or other scrap lumber. These are economical enough, and can be made to almost any size that you wish (keeping in mind that you need enough waste mass to get the compost pile to heat up.) But they can take up a good amount of room, and candidly many home brew compost bins are not the most attractive things to have near your garden.

At the other end of the spectrum, you can find some very expensive compost tumblers that do a great job of creating good compost, and doing it quickly and with just a minimum of effort. But, as effective as these are, some of them are several hundred dollars, and are fairly big contraptions, and tend to dominate the area of your yard or garden where they are situated.

There is a middle ground if you are looking to purchase an inexpensive composter. You can get something quite functional and makes a nice addition to the garden area from an appearance standpoint.

One of the most popular composters of all time is the Earth Machine composter. This small unit (about 10 gallons) can not only be purchased at many stores, but it has either been given away or offered at a discount by many local government agencies, which helps to account for the fact that over 2 million have been sold.

A slightly larger unit that is still priced well under $90 is the Soilsaver compost bin. It has a few features that make it easier to use, and help keep the rodents and vermin out of your bin.

Each of these bins is inexpensive and can work well for your garden, but each also has its own strengths and weaknesses...

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| To see a more complete review and comparison of the [Earth Machine Composter](http://how2compost.com/earth_machine.php) and the [Soilsaver compost bin](http://how2compost.com/soilsaver_composter.html) along with other information on composting and composting tools go to <http://how2compost.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=J\_Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel) |

Sit on Your Compost With the Composting Bench  
By [Vicki Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong)

For some, figuring out where they can start composting can be a bit of a challenge. After all, there are a few things one should keep in mind, like how far the compost heap should be from their home, how to keep it hidden away from nosy neighbors and prying eyes, and how to keep rodents and wildlife from digging around in the compost. And while there are a couple options like keeping your compost under wraps in a compost tumbler or bin, there are consumers out there who look for other aesthetically attractive options. One such option is a bench that doubles as a composting bin.

Dual functional furniture is always a plus, and owning a bench that offers a composting bin option is a terrific way to hide your compost in plain sight. You may want to consider this alternative versus a normal compost bin or compost tumbler if you feel that composting out in the open may ruin or distract from your natural landscape. With a composting bench, you can fearlessly hide your compost out in the middle of your garden without it taking away from the landscape.

Some companies offer dual functional composting benches, but it you're the do it yourself type, you can make a building project out of it. Just be sure to keep about 20 inches of height from the seat to the ground for a good sized composting bin. Another good design feature to keep in mind is to add hinges to the seat so that you can lift it up whenever you need to add water or turn the pile. It's also important to keep in mind that your compost needs ventilation in order for it to decompose properly, so make sure that there's plenty of slits all around the bottom bin. Be sure however, to make them small enough so that small animals can't get in. And don't worry about any smells coming out from beneath the bench; as long as you're following the proper carbon to nitrogen ration (green parts to brown parts), and you're regularly turning and adding water to your compost, it should smell earthy, not icky.

Composting is a fun process for everyone, and keeping it underneath an attractive bench is perfect for even the most discerning gardener. Literally, you can sit back and relax and let the compost do its thing!

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| For a wide selection in [compost bins](http://www.composters.com/main_comp.html) and [rain barrels](http://www.composters.com/main_water.html) be sure to stop by Composters.com.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Vicki\_Duong](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Vicki_Duong) |

Keyword: composting tips

Top 8 Composting Tips  
By [Joanne Jones](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Joanne_Jones) Platinum Quality Author

Do you want to start a compost pile but feel it's too much work? Or do you already have one and think that it is taking too long to produce a rich and healthy compost soil? Here are some tips that will help you to create richer compost faster!

**1.** Be sure to rotate the compost pile in order to get oxygen in the mix, which speeds up the composting process. Use a composting bin or tumbler to make rotating simpler. With a traditional compost pile, you have to rotate the pile manually with a pitchfork. With a bin or tumbler, that manual work is almost eliminated. For example, with the tumbler, you only have to turn the handle in order to rotate the materials in the tumbler.

**2.** Don't add food with mold on it to your compost pile. The mold may not be killed off during the composting process and could be spread to plants in your garden once it is added to the soil.

**3.** If you have the time, break down the items to be composted into smaller pieces before you add them to the compost pile. The smaller the pieces are, the quicker they will break down.

**4.** Add a variety of materials to your compost pile. Materials can be classified as either "brown" or "green" and there should be about 2 parts brown material to 1 part green material. Brown materials add carbon to the soil and include hay, sawdust and dried leaves. Green materials add nitrogen to the soil and include grass and food scraps. If you add too much of one item, it will slow down the composting process.

**5.** Don't let your compost pile get too dry or too wet. Moisture is an important part of the composting process. Too dry and the materials won't break down properly. Too wet and the pile will start to rot and develop a very unpleasant, stinky smell.

**6.** Insects and bugs are nature's way of speeding up the compost process. Flying insects and earthworms are the most commonly seen insects near a compost pile. Just let them do their job and make sure not to use any pesticides. In fact, the more earthworms there are in the soil, the healthier the soil is.

**7.** Avoid adding certain materials to your compost pile. Perennial weeds, such as dandelions or thistle, will just keep growing. Poison ivy can cause an itchy rash when you are working with the compost. Plus, some plants are toxic to other plants, such as sunflower seed hulls, heads and stalks. Finally, avoid adding cat litter and other pet waste, as it can be harmful to humans.

**8.** The warmer the compost pile, the faster it will decompose. Place your compost pile in an area that receives a lot of sunshine. The heat from the sun will heat up the pile fast! Just make sure to add water if you find that the pile is too dry.

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| For more information on composting and gardening, please visit <http://www.thegardenersescape.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Joanne\_Jones](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Joanne_Jones) |

Garden Composting Tips- The Art of Composting  
By [Carlo Morelli](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Carlo_Morelli)

Even a composting neophyte can create top-notch compost with the right recipe. Akin to cooking, composting is half art, and half science. Awareness of these basic factors will help you getting started.

Just like a chef demands high quality ingredients, successful composting needs the best ingredients too. Good materials for composting include these: grass clippings, leaves, plant stalks, hedge trimmings, old potting soil, twigs, vegetable scraps, coffee filters, and tea bags.

Bad composting materials include: diseased plants, weeds with seed heads, invasive weeds, pet feces, dead animals, bread and grains, meat or fish parts, dairy products, grease, cooking oil, or oily foods.

To prepare compost, you need organic materials, microorganisms, air, water, and a small quantity of nitrogen.

Organic material is what you are trying to decompose (see above for Do’s and Don’ts). Microorganisms are tiny forms of plant and animal life, which break down organic material. A small amount of garden soil or manure supplies adequate microorganisms. The air, nitrogen, and water offer an encouraging environment for the microorganisms to produce your compost. You can add enough nitrogen to the compost with small amount of nitrogen fertilizer., which can be purchased at hardware stores or nurseries. Air is the one ingredient which you can’t have too much of. Too much nitrogen can kill microbes; too much water causes insufficient air in the pile.

If microorganisms have more surface area to feed off of, the materials will decompose faster. Chopping your organic materials with a machete, or using a shredder or lawnmower to shred materials will help them break down faster.

The compost pile is your oven. Compost piles catch heat created by the activity of millions of microorganisms. The minimum size for hot, fast composting is a 3-foot by 3-foot by 3-foot. But piles wider or taller than 5 feet don't permit enough air to reach the microorganisms at the center.

Your compost pile’s microorganisms work their hardest when the materials have about the moistness of a wrung-out sponge and as many air passages. The air in the pile is usually consumed faster than the moisture, so the pile should be turned or mixed up now and then to add more air; this maintains high temperatures and controls odor. Use a pitchfork, rake, or other garden tool can to turn materials with.

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| Carlo Morelli is a writer at OnlineTips.org, where you can read about [the best soil composition for roses](http://www.onlinetips.org/rose-soil-composition) and [wrought iron balusters](http://www.onlinetips.org/wrought-iron-balusters).  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Carlo\_Morelli](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Carlo_Morelli) |

Tips On How To Manage Your Compost Heap  
By [Mike Selvon](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mike_Selvon)

There are many instances when homeowners choose not to get started with backyard composting because of the perception that it is hard to do correctly. In reality, you just need to collect the basic organic materials, find a place for the compost heap and then allow nature to take over the task. But, there are some basic guidelines to keep in mind that can help make the whole process move forward without a hitch.

There are a number of different types of compost bins on the market that you can use to help manage and contain your compost. But, a special bin is not a requirement that is needed to accomplish successful composting, but more of a convenience. It is easy enough to build your own bin for your pile and simply cover it over with a sheet of polythene or chunk of cardboard.

Some people, however, prefer to have their compost heap more contained and neat in appearance and to have it easier to manage as well. If that is the case, then compost bins can be a good solution.

These special bins are easy enough to find online or at local stores that sell organic gardening tools and supplies. Some local municipalities also have compost bins available at a reduced cost to encourage people to recycle their organic waste.

Making a compost is as simple as adding your organic items that are compostable on a regular basis. Any waste product that was at one time a living thing will compost, or decompose, but some items are not recommended to be thrown into your pile. Meats, dairy foods and cooked foods will end up attracting pests and vermin so these should not be used in your home composting efforts.

Dead and decaying leaves, lawn clippings, manure, and kitchen waste such as rinds, peelings, coffee grounds and even eggshells can be added to it. Older, thicker and tougher plant materials are slower to decompose but they benefit the compost by providing more substance, or body, to the finished product. These heavier materials usually comprise most of a compost pile.

Wood items take a long time to decompose. Whenever possible it is best to shred, chip or chop wood materials to help accelerate the rotting process. However, as long as they are mixed in with other materials that decompose faster they will still provide some benefit to the process overall.

In general it is best to have fairly equal amounts of what is called brown material and green material in it. Brown materials are the manures, dead leaves, small twigs and cardboard and newspapers. Green materials include hedge and grass clippings, coffee grounds, fruit rinds and uncooked vegetables.

You only need to have about one foot of organic material to get your compost heap started. In most instances, just mowing the yard and weeding your flowerbeds and vegetable garden will give you enough to begin. If needed, then you can also add organic kitchen waste and newspaper, and even a little straw if you are coming up short of the one foot level.

Once things get piled up, nature will take over and the decomposition process will start. It is good to turn the heap about every two weeks and within four to six months you will have a nice compost of waste materials that will give a boost to your soil.

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| A free audio gift awaits you at our portal site, where you can enrich your knowldege further about the [compost heap](http://composting.niche-education.com/Compost-Heap.php). Your comment is much appreciated at our [recycling](http://www.mynicheportal.com/home-garden/the-purpose-of-the-compose-heap) blog.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Mike\_Selvon](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Mike_Selvon) |

Tips To Really Get Your Compost Heap Cooking  
By [Julie Williams](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Julie_Williams) Platinum Quality Author

It seems that most organic gardeners love the idea of making their own compost, but some gardeners have trouble making it really happen. Don't give up! There are ways to give your compost heap a boost and get it heating up again - creating beautiful, nutritious humus for your veggie garden.

OK, so after six months your 'compost' has remained unchanged from it's original state? Remember there are certain conditions your heap needs to be able to actively turn it's ingredients into compost. They are air and moisture. Here are some things you can try.

1. Turn your heap over, exposing it to air, watering if dry.   
  
2. If your heap dries out it will stop breaking down. Water the heap every few days in summer if conditions are hot and dry.   
  
3. Add ingredients that are as small as possible. Use a shredder, mulcher or lawn mower to chop up larger ingredients such as prunings and larger leaves.   
  
4. To speed up the composting process add lots of nitrogen-rich ingredients such as clover, manure laden straws, herbal activators (see below), washed sea-weed or fishmeal.

**Herbal Compost Activators** - some herbs are well known as particularly impressive compost activators. Add them to your heap to speed up your results.

**Comfrey** *(Symphytum officinale)* is rich in calcium, nitrogen, phosphates and potassium. It has large hairy leaves that break down very quickly.

**Dandelion** *(Taraxacum sp)* also accelerates the breaking down of materials in the heap. It is rich in copper, potash and iron, all valuable goodies in your compost.

**Valerian** *(Valeriana officinalis)* has a reputation for attracting earthworms to the compost heap. It's leaves are also rich in minerals.

**Yarrow** *(Achillea sp)* can have the most dramatic effect in your heap, even in small amounts. It will enrich your compost with nitrates, potash, phosphares and copper, so is a very valuable addition.

**Tansy** *(Tanacetum vulgare)* has the ability to concentrate potassium from the soil where it grows. Adding Tansy to your compost means adding potassium.

If you have the room, it's best to have two or more compost piles on the go. One that you are preparing by gathering materials, one that is semi-matured and one that has already turned into that gorgeous, black, earthy plant tonic - ready to use.

One more tip is to make sure air can get to the middle of your heap, especially if you don't plan to turn it often. Place garden stakes or pvc pipes through the middle of your heap so that you can 'jiggle' them every few weeks allowing air to the centre.

Try some of these tips and I'm sure you will speed things up for your compost heap and you will be topdressing your veggies with your own compost in no time.

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| Hi, I am an avid organic gardener and am known by my friends as the recycling queen. I live on a small country property in South Australia.  It is my mission to encourage as many people as possible to start organic gardening ( I know you'll become addicted). This will improve both our individual lives and the wellbeing of our personal and global environments.  Anyone can grow their own healthy food with Organic Gardening. [Click here to get started now!](http://www.1stoporganicgardening.com)  Happy Organic Gardening, Healthy Living... Julie Williams <http://www.1stoporganicgardening.com>  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Julie\_Williams](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Julie_Williams) |

Two Tips For a Higher Yielding Vegetable Garden  
By [Casey Evens](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Casey_Evens)

The first thing to do is make sure the soil is enriched. Plants pull much need nutrients out of the ground when they grow so you need to replace them.

The first way to do this is to add compost. You can make compost by taking kitchen scrapes (not meat or dairy) and mixing them in with leaves or grass clippings. Over time the matter will break down leaving you with a nutrient rich brown soil. Mix the compost in with your regular soil and your plants will love it.

The second way to enrich soil is (hold your breath) horse manure. That's right horse manure is one of the best things to plant you plants in. Right now you're probably thinking to yourself that you don't have horses but you probably know where a horse farm is. Most horse farmers will let you get horse manure as long as you don't mess with their horses. Stop by a local farm and ask if you can have some. You want the older manure that looks like dark brown dirt. It really doesn't smell that bad!

The second thing to do is to plant flowers by your vegetable garden. The logic behind that is that bee's pollinate flowers. The more honey bees that you have around the more the flowers on your vegetable plants will get pollinated. Honeybees are not like wasps. They only sting you if you are a threat to them. I've even pick vegetables along side of honeybees and don't get stung. Now if you have little kids you have to be more careful until they learn to leave the bees alone.

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| Gardening is a lot of fun to do and can be seriously relaxing. And lets face it, in this day and age any thing that is relaxing and enjoyable is something worth doing! Get more [vegetable gardening tips](http://www.squidoo.com/keystoahappyvegtablegarden). Check out The Real Gardening Handbook and sign up for [Free Gardening Tips](http://www.yourgardeninghandbook.info) and Articles!  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Casey\_Evens](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Casey_Evens) |

Composting book reviews

Compost - Rodale Press - A Book Review  
By [J Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel)

Coming in at slightly less than 100 pages Rodale's Compost is a "black gold" mine of information on composting.

Rodale's Compost is organized as six chapters. It covers topics ranging from the basics all the way up to of commercial compost.

It opens with a chapter on the reasons for composting, and its benefits for your garden and the overall ecosystem.

Chapter 2 is a review of composting tools and supplies It recommends seven basic tools for the gardener for composting. After reviewing the types of composting piles and containers, it notes a few of the advantages of the different types. Also covered are some unusual techniques for gathering waste materials that are broken out by region of the country.

The next chapter goes into a review of the how compost is made. From this they introduce techniques which are useful for improving the speed and efficiency of your composting. This includes a look at the creatures that may inhabit your bin, and their individual roles in breaking down your waste materials.

Chapter 4 gives the basic process for making compost, including a good list of things to not try composting. This chapter discusses the carbon to nitrogen ratio charts that can be the bane of some gardeners, and includes a sample chart. But it's presented in a clear and understandable way that helps get the makeup of your waste pile right for rapid composting. There is a section on troubleshooting problems that may be seen in a compost pile as well.

The next chapter details ways to use compost After determining that it is properly finished, they go into how and when to sift it, and basic spreading and application techniques.

The final chapter has an overview of commercially available compost, with recommendations on what to look for and especially those things that gardeners should avoid when buying compost.

The final section of the book has a seasonal guide to composting, with a comprehensive glossary, along with a list of recommended reading and web sites as well.

If there were one area that I would like to have seen improved, is would be to have a more comprehensive review of some of the more popular compost bins and tumblers. The book does have a general overview of the various types, but it does not have enough detail that it can serve as a buying guide. Aside from that observation, this book packs a lot of useful information into a compact, clearly illustrated guide.

Editor: Vicki Mattern

Publisher: Rodale Press

ISBN: 0-87596-856-2

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| How2Compost features information and tools to Jump Start your Composting, including [Compost Bins](http://how2compost.com/compost_bins.php) and a [review of Compost Tumblers](http://How2Compost.com/compost_tumblers.php).  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=J\_Ruppel](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=J_Ruppel) |

Worms Eat My Garbage: A Book Review  
By [H. Tim Sevets](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=H._Tim_Sevets) Platinum Quality Author

Worm composting is fun, easy and educational. It even has a fancy scientific name that you can throw out at your next party: vermicomposting. The acknowledged bible of vermicomposting is Mary Appelhof's *Worms Eat My Garbage*.

The basic idea of worm composting is that you set up a bin of some kind in which you place your daily garbage and some worms. The worms eat the garbage, turning it into rich dark castings which can then be used as a natural fertilizer for your plants.

There's more to it than that, of course. Some types of bins are better than others, you have to use the right kind of worms, and not all garbage is good for vermicomposting—for example, meat scraps are a no-no. *Worms Eat My Garbage* will set the beginning worm composter on the right track regarding all of these issues and more.

We've been vermicomposting in our household for several years now. One of the neat things about it is how the worms in our bin multiply so rapidly, making it a self-perpetuating system. Even my young daughter likes to go out and watch our wriggly little "pets" burrowing through crumbly worm-soil that started out weeks earlier as lettuce leaves, egg shells and coffee grounds.

*Worms Eat My Garbage* answers all of the important questions about composting with worms. Among these questions are: Where should you put the worm bin? What kind and size of container should you use? What kind of worms should you get? How many worms to you need? How do you take care of your worms?

Vermicomposting is receiving growing attention and interest, and it is quite likely that there is someone down at the local county extension office or 4H club who is knowledgeable about it and can demonstrate how to set up a worm bin for anyone who wants to get started. You might also be able to find free handouts that give the rudiments of starting a worm composting bin.

There is no substitute, though, for having a comprehensive manual on worm composting near to hand if worm composting sounds like something you want to try. *Worms Eat My Garbage* is that manual.

*Worms Eat My Garbage* is published by Flower Press of Kalamazoo, Michigan; ISBN # 0-942256-03-4.

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| H. Tim Sevets is books editor for the [Solid Gold Info Writers Consortium](http://www.solid-gold.info/index.html), where he specializes in objective reviews of the top money-making reports available over the Web. Recently, he reviewed an e-book that claims to show how to make money by tearing up old books and magazines and selling them on eBay. Read his opinion at <http://www.solid-gold.info/tear-up-old-books-sell-ebay.html>.  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=H.\_Tim\_Sevets](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=H._Tim_Sevets) |

Composting For All - Book Review  
By [Lillian Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet)

Nicki Scott released the second edition of Composting For All in 2004; obviously this is a popular publication within the UK, and it is certainly affordable. Here is one booklet that practices what it preaches - the cover is printed on 80% recycled material and the inside pages are printed on 100% recycled paper. I thought the front cover's image of mom, dad and young girl happily tending to a compost bin near their bountiful garden and lush yard was quite cute.

Thirty-two pages and seventeen chapters (including the introduction and resource sections) are filled with sketches and illustrations by Bob Gale. This short booklet explains what composting involves in a simple way and terms like vermiculture and aerobic bacteria become less confusing. Learn how to begin composting safely wit little hassle. Discover old and new composting methods from hot and cold composts, fermentation methods and vermiculture. He even discusses compost activators (those that increase decomposition process) and how to reuse an old chest freezer to make a worm bin. The booklet closes with a very small reference section for readers to contact eleven associations and publications to further their journey in waste reduction.

I enjoyed his discussion about the amazing array of life forms are supported by composting activities, and the final product that encourages healthier green spaces, gardens, balcony and roof gardens and flowerboxes in our communities. This results in a wonderful bio-support system to help the other critters that share our world, and healthy plants that clean our air.

The suggestion that most appealed to me was substituting leaf compost for peat requirements in our gardens. I had no idea that many commercially bagged compost actually contain peat. Environmentalists will tell you how important it is to avoid using peat-based products, and alternatives such as ground coconut husk have been around for some time.

Cities concerned with stressed landfills offer compost bins or worm bins to help people handle organic waste. Unfortunately the training available for citizens to use is not always readily available. This is what makes books like these so valuable to our society.

Nicki Scott has authored two booklets, one book and a video on composting and other methods we can all employ reduce waste. He has served as the chairperson for the Community Compost Network in the UK.

Author: Nicki Scott   
Illustrator: Bob Gale   
Publisher: Green books (UK)   
ISBN: 1-903998-23-9

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| ~ Lillian Brummet: co-author of the books Trash Talk and Purple Snowflake Marketing, author of Towards Understanding; host of the Conscious Discussions radio show (<http://www.brummet.ca>)  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lillian\_Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet) |

Composting - An Easy Household Guide - Book Review  
By [Lillian Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet) Platinum Quality Author

Nicky Scott, Chairperson for the Community Composting Network in the UK, is the author of three small books (roughly 4 x 6 inches) dealing with waste reduction and has appeared in two videos about composting. His book, Composting - An Easy Household Guide, was originally published in 2005 and the second edition was released in 2006. The cover and all ninety-six pages are printed on 100% recycled paper.

This book is slightly more advanced than his smaller booklet, Composting For All. Both books discuss why compost is such an important factor in reducing stress on landfills. But here, Nicky shows how this one simple action can benefit everyone in the community and can actually affect global conditions as well. Nicky tells readers that approximately one-quarter of UK's methane gas emissions (one of the gases that contributes to global warming) are due to organic waste in landfills, which are decomposing improperly. When composts are given aerobic conditions there is very little gas production.   
Nicky shows other advantages such as less odor in garbage cans and less volume for curb-side pick-up services to deal with - therefore garbage will be put out on the curb less often.

Nicky demonstrates how to get the right mix in the compost for optimal decomposition conditions. He then explains some of the different composting bins sold commercially. There is the perfect bin available for different situations from apartment dwellers to individuals, situations involving pest issues (rats, etc) and communal composting. His book covers Dalek-type bins, tumblers, digesters, green cones, green Johanna's, fermentation methods, worm bins and more.

Much of the information can be applied globally, though the stats and information in Composting- and Easy Household Guide is from the UK. Terms such as "fly tipping" have no definition in North America. The resource section is four pages long and provides information on seven organizations and lists three books and videos for readers to refer to.

Author: Nicky Scott   
Illustrator: Roy Chadwick   
Publisher: Green books (UK)   
ISBN: 1-903998-78-6

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| ~ Lillian Brummet: co-author of the books Trash Talk and Purple Snowflake Marketing, author of Towards Understanding; host of the Conscious Discussions radio show (<http://www.brummet.ca>)  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lillian\_Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet) |

Pee Wee and the Magical Compost Heap - Book Review  
By [Lillian Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet)

Pee Wee And The Magical Compost Heap is the first story in a series of three children's books based on the character Pee Wee Worman, which was made possible through a grant from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. It is illustrated with pencil sketches by Alia Toor of musical notes, sunflowers, children, compost piles, worms and other critters found in a compost pile, tiny lady bugs, plant parts and winding vines grace each page as readers follow the story.

The story opens with a cute and enjoyable song written by Joan Gilmour called The Compost Song that uses the universally applicable melody for the tune "The Hokey Pokey". In this story, Nancy has lost her favorite ring and her brother Scott is helping her look for it in the garden. Luckily their friends Mathieu and Naseem come out to help in the task. Suddenly, a magical butterfly changes all the children into the size of bugs and they explore the compost pile. There, they meet P.W. Worman, a friendly red wiggler who is proud to show them his home. When they realize that it is time to go home, they climb to the top of the compost pile where they find Nancy's ring. This theme is reminiscent of The Magical School Bus TV series in that the children shrink and go through educational adventures.

Environmentalists will be thrilled to know that though the book retails at only $3.95 (Canadian), 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Recycling Council of Ontario's composting projects. The author goes a step further by ensuring the paper it was printed on had at least 10% recycled content and used all vegetable inks.

Pee Wee And The Magical Compost Heap is a bargain for frugal minded educators, parents and caregivers. The 6-page glossary at the end of the book provides ample information for class and home school projects.

Larraine Roulston, the author of this series of worm compost books for children, has been involved with Recycling Council of Ontario for a number of years and wrote a newspaper column for 15 years called 'Recycler's Report'. Her series has inspired the Recycling Council of Ontario to provide a 30 minute P.W. Worman puppet show that is performed at schools, libraries and environmental fairs.

Be sure to visit Larraine's website: <http://www.castlecompost.com>

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| ~ Lillian Brummet: co-author of the books Trash Talk and Purple Snowflake Marketing, author of Towards Understanding; host of the Conscious Discussions radio show (<http://www.brummet.ca>)  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lillian\_Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet) |

Pee Wee's Great Adventure - Book Review  
By [Lillian Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet)

International Compost Awareness Week (early May) is a perfect time to read Pee Wee's Great Adventure (ISBN# 0969788339) to groups of children during the various events celebrating the week. This book is the second installment in the series of three children's books based on the character Pee Wee Worman - who teaches us about vermiculture, or composting with worms. Published by Recycling Resource Service, this book has taken even greater environmental steps during the production phases than the first book of the series (Pee Wee And the Magical Compost Heap). By using only 100% post-consumer paper that is both acid free and chlorine free the publishers are providing an excellent example of making choices that are better for the environment. Interestingly, even the ink been considered - only vegetable based inks were used.

Pee Wee's Great Adventure continues with P.W. Worman, Nancy, her brother Scott and their friends Mathieu and Naseem. The story begins during a communal meal in the compost where Pee Wee is asked to tell about his origins, because he was not born in the compost pile. His tale of wild adventure and near death experiences will have little readers wide-eyed until Pee Wee reaches safety and finds a comforting home in the compost pile.

The story concludes with an entertaining song that employs the universally applicable tune of "The Hokey Pokey", written by Jane Gilmore. I found it interesting that instructions on how to care for an indoor worm bin are included in the dialogue between the children, even though the story focused on Pee Wee's journey to the compost pile.

The book is illustrated by Ryan Dening, with what looks to be pen sketches. Children will enjoy identifying the ground beetles, worms, flies, centipedes, millipedes, springtails and more. Scenes of back yards and detailed close-in views (making small things appear larger) will appeal to children. I particularly enjoyed the colorful cover with children doing various activities in what looks to be a park near a large city.

Pee Wee's Great Adventure could be an inspiration for readers to start their own class or home project. Retailing at only $7.95 (Canadian), this paperback book is a bargain for frugal minded educators, parents and caregivers. There are two pages of detailed instructions for worm bins at the end of the book, followed by a two-page glossary. Finally, the author shares tips on what worms will eat, where to place the bin and how to use the castings.

Larraine Roulston, the author of this series of worm compost books for children, has been involved with Recycling Council of Ontario for a number of years and wrote a newspaper column for 15 years called 'Recycler's Report'. Her series of Pee Wee books has inspired the Recycling Council of Ontario to provide a 30 minute P.W. Worman puppet show that is performed at schools, libraries and environmental fairs. Larraine is a loving and enthusiastic grandmother who hopes to spread knowledge of the benefits and importance of composting.

Be sure to visit Larraine's website: <http://www.castlecompost.com>

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| ~ Lillian Brummet: co-author of the books Trash Talk and Purple Snowflake Marketing, author of Towards Understanding; host of the Conscious Discussions radio show (<http://www.brummet.ca>)  Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lillian\_Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet) |

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - An Easy Household Guide - Book Review  
By [Lillian Brummet](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Lillian_Brummet) Platinum Quality Author

I was very excited to review Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - An Easy Household Guide by UK author, Nicky Scott. Because my husband and I wrote Trash Talk, which is a similar guide written for North Americans, I was very interested to learn how individuals in the UK are dealing with reducing waste.

With the 96-page book, the author attempts to provide a guide for people to follow; "in a world of confusing messages" where overwhelming environmental problems weigh down our hearts, Nicky hopes to encourage readers with positive information. Cute little illustrations by Axel Scheffler accompany most of the pages, adding a little touch of humor.

One of the first things Nicky discusses is the importance of refusing to purchase over-packaged items - in fact he states it is the main focus of the book, and it does briefly discusses avoiding disposables, things that cannot be recycled and those that are made from all virgin materials. Whereas the book seems to concentrate on how to reuse or recycle existing trash, it also comments on seeing the reuse, repair or recycle potential for products we are considering buying. He also suggests taking advantage of re-fill retailers (i.e. in Canada: Body Shop, Sampson Soaps, etc) and bulk outlets (grocery stores, bulk products at hair salons, etc). The author mentions that maintenance increases the likely hood of reuse and stressed donations and private sales. Tips are included on ways to make the recycle system run more smoothly and interesting UK statistics.

Chapter three hosts 59 pages of an extensive A-Z guide for items that are commonly found in waste bins. What to do with Fluorescent and CFL bulbs, funeral alternatives to consider, what the various numbers on plastics mean -it's all covered here in this tidy book. I found the information about all the different kinds of batteries, particularly the button-cell variety (watch, camera, calculator, etc), quite interesting. Interestingly, I never considered donating furniture too battered for reuse to upholsterer businesses and classes, where they may wish to reuse the frame to make new furniture.

Readers may find that some of the information is repetitive and Chapter four seems to reiterate what the book is trying to say. I enjoyed chapter five, which discusses the future of zero waste and cleaner waste (less toxic or greenhouse gas producing), very much. The book closes with an excellent resource section that offers roughly two-dozen organizations along with their contact information and lists about thirty books that are certain to make the environmentalist in you drool with anticipation.

Nicky Scott, Chairperson for the National Community Composting Network (CCN) in the UK, is the author of three small books (roughly 4 x 6 inches) dealing with waste reduction and has appeared in two videos about composting. His interest began while working at a compost business as a young man, and the passion grew while he studied at the UK's leading organic research organization, The Henry Doubleday Research Association. As initiator and Secretary of one of the first community composting projects, which continues to created jobs, and the head of the newsletter for the CCN organization - he is a busy man. Between all this, he squeezes in time to run workshops and give lectures. In his spare time, Nicky is a musician and artist.

Author: Nicky Scott   
Illustrator: Axel Scheffler   
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