

5 Reasons to Start Backyard Composting

REDUCES food waste and yard debris waste

CREATES a valuable soil amendment

PREVENTS greenhouse gases

IDEAL for households with a yard

EASY to do

Composting: Myth Vs. Fact

MYTH: Compost creates odors and attracts pests.

FACT: Properly building and maintaining compost using organic waste almost never attracts pests and will smell like a humus-rich forest.

MYTH: Compost is unsightly.

FACT: Attractive, low-cost compost enclosures can be built or purchased.

MYTH: Composting requires a lot of work.

FACT: Compost is a natural process. Basically, the elements of nature do the work. You can turn the material once a week or once a month. Compost just happens!

Find more tips and resources at
longbeach.gov/lbrecycles



Join us online!

www.longbeach.gov/lbrecycles

Join other LB Recyclers in shaping and sharing environmental knowledge and behaviors.

Find resources and workshops on recycling and waste reduction on our website.

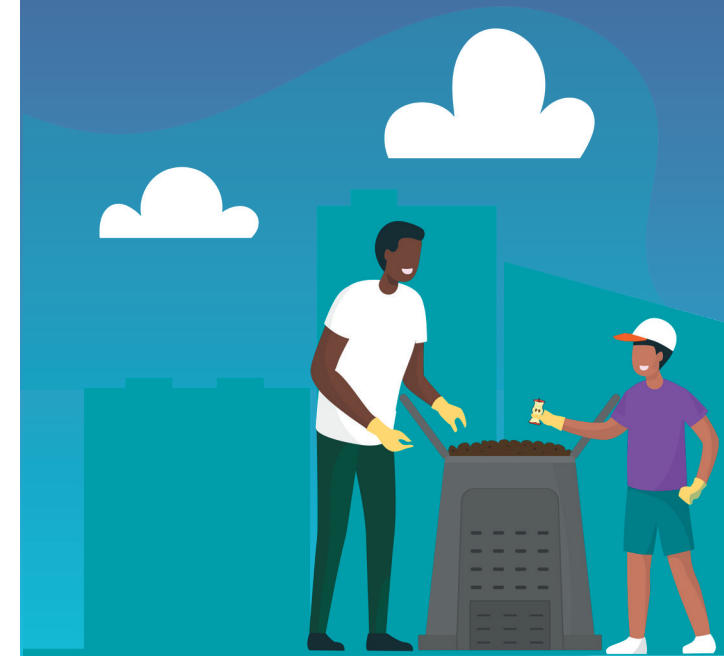
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Getting Started With Backyard Composting

Transform Food Scraps and Yard Debris in the City of Long Beach



Ensure a Healthy Compost in 3 Steps

1 Choose your bin

You can build your own bin or buy pre-made discounted bins through the City:

Soil Saver



Presto GeoBin



Purchase bin here:



2 Set up the bin

- Place in a shady, dry area.
- Avoid places with low levels where water can accumulate after rain.

3 Start composting!

Collect food scraps and yard debris and arrange the materials in your bin. See the center panel (right) for approved materials.

Do NOT compost:

- Meat scraps and bones
- Dairy
- Processed foods
- Fats, oils, and grease
- Plastic
- Diseased vegetation
- Citrus
- Palm fronds and large wood pieces
- Pet waste and cat litter
- Treated wood (or ashes from treated wood)
- "Compostable" plastics



Include Key Components

Browns
Greens
Water
Air



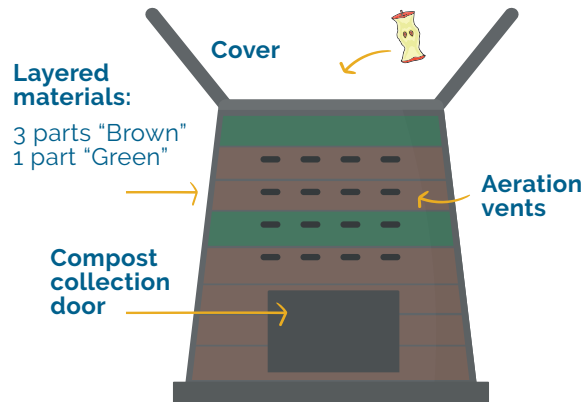
Proper Moisture Level

should be similar to a wrung-out sponge.



Turn Your Compost

once a week or more. Compost needs to breathe.



What to compost

"Browns" or Carbons

Dry leaves
Wood chips/sawdust
Straw/hay
Shredded paper
Small twigs
Tree bark
Nutshells
Eggshells

"Greens" or Nitrogens

Grass and plant trimmings
Fruit and vegetable scraps
Flowers
Fresh leaves
Coffee grounds and filters
Loose leaf tea & tea bags (natural fiber, staples removed)

Timeline for Compost

If turned, finished compost takes 6-8 weeks. If not turned, finished compost takes 6-8 months.

Finished compost will be dark, crumbly topsoil and has an earthy smell.

How to Use Finished Compost

Top-dress your lawn

Sprinkle compost lightly over your lawn to improve the lawn's health. Water well.

Potting mix for new plants

2 parts strained compost, 1 part sand or perlite.

Soil amendment for already planted plants

Combine a small amount of compost to cover 1-2 inches of soil.

For a soil/garden bed before planting

Mix 3-4 inches into the soil before planting and you are ready for plants.

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