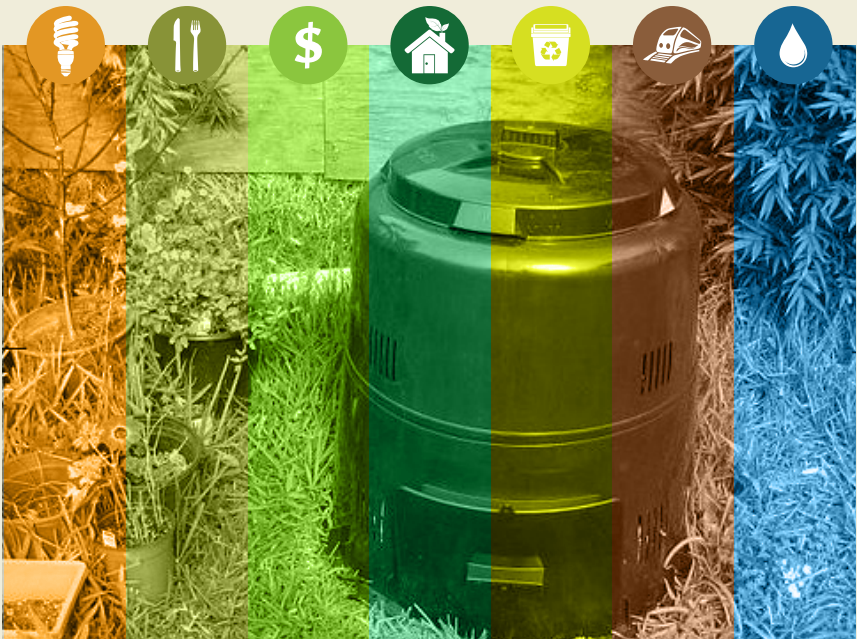


Green Works Orlando

MAYOR DYER'S
GREEN INITIATIVE



BACKYARD COMPOSTING

CITYOFORLANDO.NET/COMPOSTER



YOUR GUIDE TO BACKYARD COMPOSTING



WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the process of turning kitchen and yard waste into usable, nutrient rich soil through natural decomposition. Inside the composter, organic waste is broken down through a controlled process by micro organisms. By utilizing the correct material, these micro organisms will create a soil product that is incredibly nutrient dense and great for your garden plants.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING?

- Diverts food and yard waste from the landfill, leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Creates an enriched soil which can be used in your garden
- Suppresses plant diseases and pests
- Saves you money by reducing the need for chemical fertilizer



24% of the municipal solid waste stream is comprised of food waste and yard trimmings. Recycling and composting are good ways to keep material out of the landfill.



WHAT IS COMPOSTING?



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH COMPOST?

- Amend your garden soil by working compost into it
- Sprinkle compost on your lawn to foster healthy and robust soil top-dressing
- Improve the soil around trees and shrubs by spreading compost near the base of the tree trunk

A typical household throws away approximately

474 pounds

of food waste per year, or 1.3 pounds per person per day.

WHERE SHOULD YOU PUT YOUR BACKYARD COMPOSTER?

- Place The Earth Machine on exposed soil in a dry, shady or moderately sunny spot that is near a source of clean water.
- Use the four provided plastic screws to secure the backyard composter to the ground.
- Make sure it's convenient to get to the composter, as you'll be taking your food waste out often!





WHAT CAN I COMPOST?

Composting requires a mix of nitrogen and carbon to create the proper environment for decomposition. Green waste such as food scraps, bring nitrogen whereas brown waste, leaves and paper products, add carbon to the mix.

GREEN



Fruit and vegetables
Crushed egg shells



Coffee grounds and filters



Grass clippings
Houseplants

BROWN



Shredded cardboard



Shredded black
and white newspaper



Hay, straw, wood chips
Shredded cotton & wool rags



Nuts, shells, bread, grains



Yard trimmings, leaves
Dryer & vacuum cleaner lint



Hair and fur

“NO” LIST



Meat, Bones
Fats, grease, lard, oils



Dairy (butter, milk, eggs)
Diseased plants
Charcoal ashes



Toxic materials
Nonbiodegradable materials
Cat or dog waste, litter



HOW DO I COMPOST?

Beginning a home composting project can be easy, fun and educational by following a few simple steps:

1. WASTE TREATMENT



Chop, shred or tear items into smaller pieces. This will help speed up the decomposition process.

2. KITCHEN COLLECTION



Line your container with newspaper to soak up liquids, and when you empty the bin into the composter the newspaper can go along with it!

3. EMPTY INTO COMPOSTER

Whenever the bin is full, simply empty the container with the newspaper into The Earth Machine.

4. ADD YARD WASTE



Cover fresh food waste with a layer of leaves, other dry yard trimmings, or soil.

5. ADD WATER



Your compost should be the moisture of a wrung-out sponge.

6. STIR AND HARVEST



Periodically stir the container to aerate the compost and encourage decomposition. After a few months, the soil will be ready for harvest.



HOW DO I HARVEST THE SOIL?

Compost can be harvested after about 4 to 6 months. You'll know it's ready when the soil is a crumbly moist texture and gives off an earthy aroma.

SMALL HARVESTING

Use the harvest door at the base of The Earth Machine and remove as much soil as you need using a shovel or garden trowel.



LARGE HARVESTING

If you would like to access the whole pile, simply unscrew the four anchoring screws and lift the container over the pile. Place any large and intact food scraps back in The Earth Machine to begin the next composting cycle.

TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR PILE

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Rotten egg smell	Insufficient air or too much moisture	Turn pile and incorporate coarse browns (sawdust, leaves)
Ammonia smell	Too much nitrogen	Incorporate coarse browns
Pile does not heat up or decomposes slowly	Pile too small	Add more organic matter
	Insufficient moisture	Turn pile and add water
	Lack of nitrogen	Incorporate food waste
	Not enough air	Turn pile
	Cold weather	Increase pile size or insulate



YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING LOCALLY



The City of Orlando uses single stream recycling, so put all of your recyclables into the cart! Large boxes can get stuck and cause recycling to stay in your cart. Break boxes down so they come out of the cart easily. **Items accepted:**



Steel, Tin & Aluminum Cans



Plastic Bottles & Containers #1-5, 7



Office Paper, Brown Paper Bags, Newspapers



Paper Cardboard, Dairy & Juice Containers



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Junk Mail & Magazines
Revistas, correspondencia no

Keep food waste, plastic bags, polystyrene foam cups & containers, aluminum pans and other plastic film out of the recycling cart. Plastic bags harm recycling machinery, empty the recycling directly into the cart.



Green Works Orlando
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Solid Waste Division, 1028 Woods Avenue, Orlando, FL 32805
407.246.2314 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday
SWcustomersvc@cityoforlando.net • cityoforlando.net/solidwaste