



So you want to compost indoors

Here's what you'll need:

- 5-gallon bucket with lid (and drill if the lid doesn't have holes)
- Hand shovel
- Mixed "greens": Food waste or plant scraps
- Mixed "browns": Wood chips, leaves, sawdust or newspaper
- Small bag of potting soil

1. Drill air holes in bucket lid about 2 to 3 inches apart.

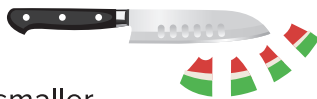
2. Place 1 to 2 cups potting soil in your bucket.

3. Layer "browns" on top of potting soil, then layer in "greens."

Alternate back and forth.

Note:

Cut food scraps into smaller pieces to allow air flow. For example, cut watermelon rinds into 1-inch sections. With more surface area, the material breaks down faster.



Add a small handful of wood chips if the mix seems to be getting too compact.

4. Mix every one to two days to improve air flow and keep water from building up at the bottom.

5. If the mix starts to smell, add more wood chips or newspaper. Check to make sure it's not too wet, and stop adding new material.

6. As the container gets about three quarters full, mix only the top half or two thirds of the compost to allow the bottom portion to finish composting.

7. Once it's done, take out the bottom portion and continue composting the top portion.

8. Be patient: It's a science and an art.

When's it done?

Ohio State's Mary Wicks recommends waiting about three to four weeks after allowing the bottom layer to "cure" and then checking it. When it's finished, it will have a crumbly texture and

look and smell like the light humus on a forest floor.



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