

The Wonderful World of Composting!

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What is Compost?

Compost is organic matter that has

been decomposed and recycled as a

fertilizer and soil amendment. It forms as

a result of the natural breakdown of

organic material into fine particles

by bacteria, fungi, insects, and

animals that live in soil.

Why Do It?

Composting is a natural process that

Compost returns valuable

nutrients to the soil.

It improves soil structure so soil

can easily hold the correct amount of

moisture, nutrients, and air.

Composting reduces greenhouse gas

emissions: organic material in

landfills break down without oxygen and

produce methane gas.

It keeps additional waste out of

landfills

It saves money! By creating your own

fertilizer there's no need to buy it.

It produces natural fertilizer that

won't harm the ecosystem like chemical

fertilizer does.

Composting also reduces water pollution

caused by runoff from chemical

fertilizers and pollution from toxic

leachate, which is produced when organic

matter in landfills reacts with metals.

Toxic leachate is a source of soil

and groundwater pollution.

What Goes Into It?

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YES!

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* Yard Waste: leaves, pine

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needles, straw, and dead flowers

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*Fruits and Vegetables: skins,

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cores, any and all parts (don't

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forget to remove the stickers!)

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*Coffee Grounds

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*Eggshells

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*Tea Bags (remove the string and

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tag)

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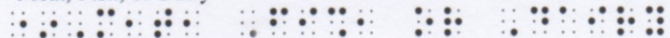
NO!



* Processed or Cooked Foods



*Meat, Fish, or Dairy



Products



*Plastic



How Is It Maintained?

Compost should be turned every 3 to 5

days and kept damp and warm. It should have

even layers of wet and dry materials

(leaves, twigs, etc. = dry;

banana peels, apple cores, etc.

= wet) to help with decomposition.

With regular care it should be ready to use

in about 3 months!