



ACCORDING TO THE USDA, YARD WASTE AND FOOD SCRAPS MAKE UP 20-30% OF WHAT WE THROW AWAY, WINDING UP IN THE LANDFILL

## WHAT IS COMPOST?

COMPOST IS DECOMPOSED ORGANIC MATERIAL MADE FROM ORGANIC SCRAPS, SUCH AS KITCHEN SCRAPS, YARD CLIPPINGS OR ANIMAL MANURE

## HOW DOES COMPOSTING WORK?

COMPOSTING SPEEDS UP THE NATURAL PROCESS OF CONVERTING PLANT MATERIAL INTO ORGANIC MATTER. AS A COMPOST PILE HEATS UP, ORGANISMS IN THE SOIL, SUCH AS WORMS, BREAK PLANT MATERIAL DOWN TO PRODUCE HEALTHY SOIL

## WHY SHOULD YOU COMPOST?

BY COMPOSTING, YOU ARE:

- CULTIVATING HEALTHY SOIL WITHOUT USING CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS
- KEEPING FOOD WASTE OUT OF THE LANDFILLS AND IN TURN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
- CONSERVING WATER BY CULTIVATING HEALTHY SOIL



COMPOSTING GIVES BACK TO THE ENVIRONMENT BY ADDING NUTRIENTS BACK INTO THE SOIL



- 1** PICK A DRY SPOT, IN EITHER THE SUN OR PARTIAL SHADE. COMPOST BINS NEED ADEQUATE AIR FLOW AND SUNLIGHT.
- 2** SELECT A COMPOST BIN - YOU COULD PURCHASE ONE OR BUILD ONE WITH WOODEN POLES AND WIRE MESH FOR SUPPORT.
- 3** INCLUDE 2-3 PARTS CARBON-RICH "BROWN MATERIAL," (TWIGS, SHREDDED NEWSPAPER, STRAW, WOOD CHIPS) AND 1 PART NITROGEN-RICH "GREEN MATERIAL," (VEGETABLE AND FRUIT SCRAPS, COFFEE GROUNDS, CRUSHED EGG SHELLS, AND GARDEN AND GRASS CLIPPINGS).  
DO NOT ADD FISH, MEAT, DAIRY, BAKED GOODS, OR GREASY, FATTY FOODS TO YOUR COMPOST PILE. THESE FOOD SCRAPS DO NOT BREAK DOWN EASILY AND MAY ATTRACT ANIMALS.
- 4** WATER YOUR COMPOST BIN AND COVER YOUR PILE TO RETAIN NUTRIENTS, HEAT AND MOISTURE. TURN YOUR PILE MONTHLY!
- 5** WATCH THE MAGIC HAPPEN! EXPECT IT TO TAKE 4-6 MONTHS FOR YOUR COMPOST STARTER TO BEGIN DECOMPOSING. WITHIN 8-12 MONTHS, YOU CAN HARVEST COMPOST TO ADD BACK INTO YOUR GARDEN BEDS. HARVEST THE COMPOST THAT IS READY AND CONTINUE WITH STEPS 1-4 WITH THE REMAINDER OF YOUR COMPOST BIN!
- 6** ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR DARK, RICH COMPOST, APPLY A LAYER AROUND THE BASES OF YOUR PLANTS, GENTLY TILLING INTO THE TOP 1-2 INCHES OF EXISTING SOIL. ADD COMPOST INTO YOUR CONTAINER GARDENS AND MIX IN WITH NEW PLANTS AROUND THE ROOTS.

## SURPRISING THINGS YOU CAN COMPOST

**PAPER COFFEE FILTERS AND TEA BAGS WITHOUT STAPLES**  
**UNLINED BROWN PAPER BAGS**  
**CARDBOARD BOXES (FREE OF GREASE)**  
**CERTIFIED HOME COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING**

**WINE CORKS**  
**WOODEN POPSICLE STICKS**  
**PAPER EGG CARTONS**  
**BEER**



**COMPOSTING IS NATURE'S  
WAY OF RECYCLING!**