Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful

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Compost in a Bag

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Compost is an organic material that helps plants grow when added to the soil. It is a mix of organic food waste, yard debris, water, air, and small bugs that all work together to make compost.

When we compost, we help enrich our soil with healthy nutrients, reduce food waste, and save money!

Supplies Needed

-Gallon plastic bag
-Dirt
-Shredded paper
-Butcher paper
-Food scraps
-Leaves or grass clippings
-Marker
-Water

Worms are a compost bin's best friend! They and other microorganisms help break down organic waste into healthy soil!

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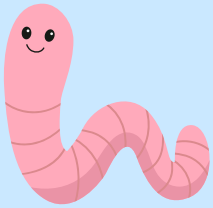
Compost doesn't happen overnight! We will observe our compost in a bag over the course of a month.

1. Take a few days and collect food scraps for your compost. It should fill up about 1/4 of your bag.

2. Once you've collected enough food scraps, tear them up into small pieces. Tear up some paper into small pieces too. This helps the food pieces breakdown faster. Record what you put in the bag.



What to Compost

-Fruit and vegetable scraps
-Eggshells
-Coffee grounds/filters
-Tea bags
-Nut shells
-Cardboard
-Paper/newspaper
-Yard trimmings
-Grass clippings
-Leaves
-Dryer lint
-Hay/straw
-Woodchips

What NOT to Compost

-Dairy products
-Egg whites or yolk
-Meat or fish scraps
-Diseased plants
-Anything plastic
-Citrus
-Pet Waste

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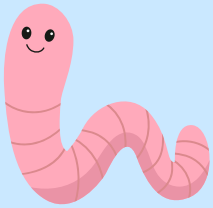
3. Place some dirt in a container. Dampen the soil with some water. It should be moist, but not muddy.

4. Add the food scraps, paper, and dirt to the bag and seal. Make sure to keep air in it! Shake bag until well combined.

5. Label and date the compost bag. Record how it looks now and at the beginning of each week throughout a month.



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Questions to Consider:

-How do the food/paper scraps look different each week?

-Is anything not breaking down?

6. After 30 days, pour a small amount of compost onto butcher paper. Can you still see any of the original material?

7. Use your compost! It can be added to an existing compost pile, or sprinkled in a garden outside, or indoor house plants.

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Visit www.kgmb.org for more activities

Source: www.keepknoxvillebeautiful.org