



Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
CuyahogaRecycles.org

Got Good Dirt?

Backyard Composting



Making Decisions

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Ultimate Dirt Machine (Digester bin) =
\$50

Go Plastics, Georgia
Retail value over \$100



Wishing Well Composter = \$50
Covered Bridge Organics, Ohio
Retail value \$74 or more

Making Decisions



Yard Butler - Compost Aeration Tool
\$20

Compost Thermometer
\$10



Sure-Close Pail = \$5

Retail value \$20

Add a pail to hold your food scraps in the kitchen until you're ready for a trip to the compost bin.

To help make your decision

Compost Bin Reference Guide



Ultimate Dirt Machine

Best for food waste!

- For a passive composter
- Dig into the ground
- No assembly
- Accepts most yard waste
- Processes all food scraps
- Can add pet waste, should only be placed near non-edible landscaping
- No air vents
- Better for small spaces

Wishing Well

Best for yard waste!

- For an active composter
- Stakes into the ground on soil or your lawn
- Easy assembly
- Accepts most yard waste
- Processes some clean food scraps. See do's and don'ts in Composting Guide on CuyahogaRecycles.org
- Air vents at bottom
- Creates soil amendment for garden and landscaping

Visit www.CuyahogaRecycles.org
to learn about composting tips and upcoming
compost seminars

Compost supplies are sold during
compost seminars and year-round at our office
4750 East 131 Street, Garfield Heights
216.443.3749.

Check or cash is accepted. All sales are final.



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Compost

A fixer for soil issues



Healthy Soil

Soil health is defined as continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.

- Regulates water
- Sustains plant and animal life
- Filters and buffers potential pollutants
- Cycles nutrients
- Provides support and physical stability



Management choices affect the amount of soil organic matter, soil structure, and soil depth as well as water and nutrient holding capacity.

How To Start A Pile

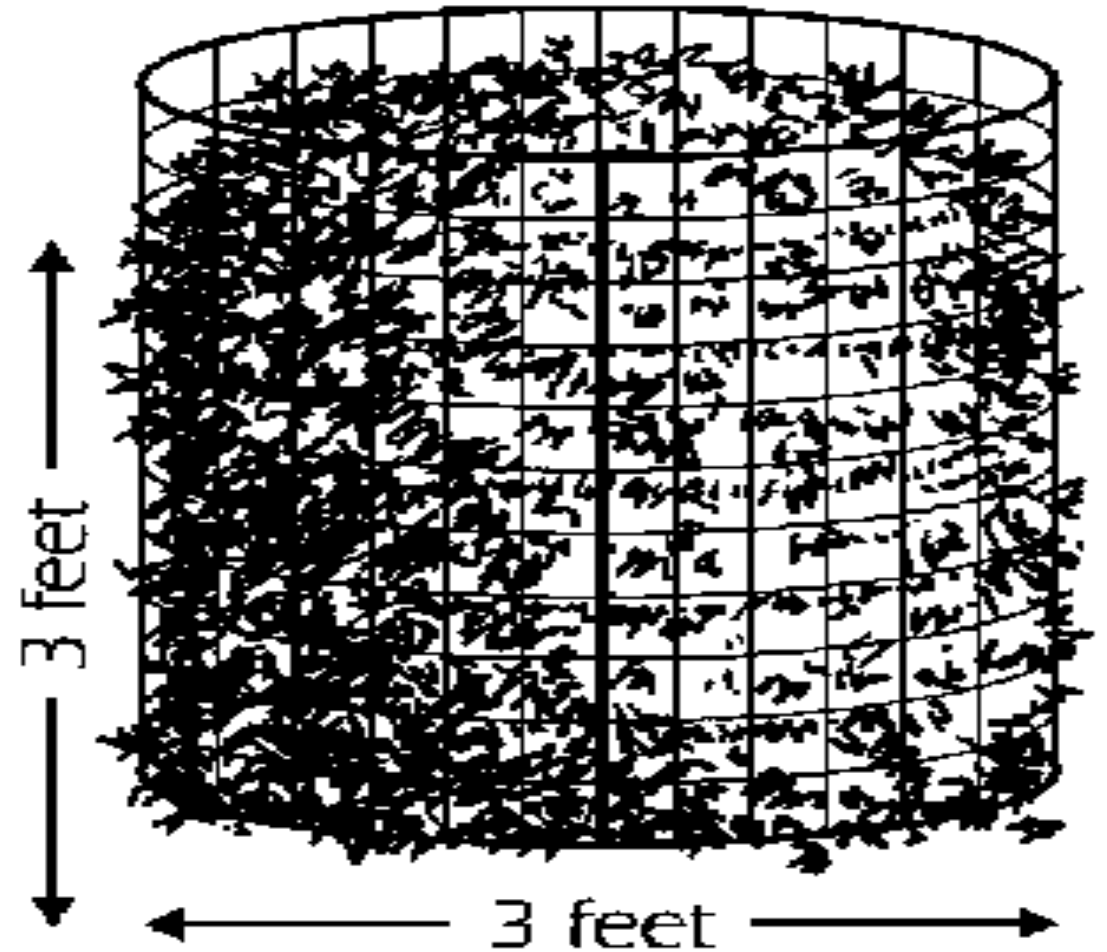
- Lay down base material (chopped brush or other coarse materials) on soil to allow air circulation around base of pile.
- Alternate layers of greens (nitrogen) and browns (carbon) around 3"- 6."
- After each green/brown layer, add up to 1" of an activator such as garden soil or compost. Activators like dried manure, coffee grounds, bone/blood/horn/fish meal or urea fertilizer will provide nitrogen to encourage reproduction of microorganisms.



A Healthy Pile

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**Keep volume
around 3 feet
cubed.**





Temperature

Most backyard piles are active between 90 and 120 degrees

131 degrees kills weed seeds and pathogens



Moisture

50 % water

Feels like a wrung out sponge



Oxygen

Turn, stir or fluff up to create porous areas for living creatures



Compost Ingredients

Do's

- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Plants
- Nuts
- Straw, hay
- Fruits, vegetables and grains
- Egg shells
- Coffee or tea grounds
- Sawdust
- Lint
- Shredded paper



Don'ts

- Meats
- Dairy Products
- Oil
- Bones
- Cat and dog droppings
- Cat litter
- Diseased plants
- Ashes from coal or Charcoal
- Branches or limbs
- Quick lime (hydrated



The Mixture

30% Green or nitrogen containing organic matter supplies protein.

Vegetables, fruits, flowers, plant clippings, grass clippings, coffee grinds, manure, etc...



70% Brown or carbon based organic matter supplies energy in carbohydrates.

Dead leaves, straw, sawdust, wood chips, shredded newspaper, corn stalks, cotton rags, nut shells, pine needles, etc...



Balanced Diet



Location

Need a level and well drained area



Sunny Spot



Location

Keep accessible and discrete



Build pile over lawn or soil



Keeping The Pile Active As Weather Cools

Put A Lid On It



Block Freezing Winds



It's Working When

- When the pile heats up.
- When materials no longer look like the original stuff you put in the pile.
- Has little to no smell beside an earthy one.



Increase Decomposition

- Aerate it
- Check moisture level
- Maintain neutral pH
- Sniff and solve problems





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THANK YOU!

Visit CuyahogaRecycles.org to learn more about reducing, reusing and recycling at home, at work and in the community.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is the leading resource in Cuyahoga County for information, expertise and programs that support sustainable materials management and reduce the environmental impact of waste.

PHONE

216.443.3714

ADDRESS

4750 East 131 Street
Garfield Heights, OH 44105

Questions

