

Grey Highlands Backyard Composting & Yard Waste

Household Composting Reduces 25-50% of your waste that would otherwise end up in your garbage!

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

The Municipality does not provide curbside collection. We encourage our residents to compost all organic waste using their own backyard composter.

Composters are available at the
Municipal Office



YARD COMPOST

What do you do with your fallen leaves at home?

Compost Leaves...

Green Leaves are Green, Dried Leaves are brown material, follow your backyard composting methods. In the fall store your surplus leaves in a bag or container. Dried leaves are an excellent "brown" material through the rest of the year.

Use Leaves as Mulch ...

Organic mulch is decomposing materials that can be spread around plants or to add to soil. Use leaves as mulch in the fall to protect gardens in winter, add 6" of leaves for best results.

Leave Shredded Leaves on your Lawn...

Fallen leaves in your yard will decompose naturally. Shred your leaves by running your lawnmower over them. Leave a moderate leaf cover on your lawn

3-Step Composting

Composting is a simple process that is easy to do right in your own backyard. When you are starting the composting process, pick a level spot for your backyard composter. A partially shaded spot is best. Loosen the soil under your bin before placing your bin in its new home, and fill in the bottom of your bin with soil, and you are ready to COMPOST!

How do you get the most out of your backyard composter? Just follow these three easy steps:

1) ORGANIC STUFF...

Always feed your bin equal amounts GREEN (Nitrogen High Materials) and BROWN (Nitrogen Low Materials). See the chart below for a list of green and brown materials. Start with a layer of brown, then green and alternate as you fill your bin. Always bury your new scraps in the center of the pile under a new layer of soil!



2) MOISTURE...

Keep your bin as damp as a well-wrung sponge. Be sure to check your moisture when it's hot or windy. Sprinkle with water to moisten.

3) AIR...

Add air to your compost pile every 2 to 3 weeks by poking holes in the pile with a broom/rake handle or loosen the pile with a garden fork.

COMPOST MATERIALS

Greens	Browns	Non-Compost
Bread (no butter), Coffee, Grinds & Filters, Egg Shells (Crushed), Feathers, Flowers, Fruit Scraps, House Plants, Vegetable Scraps, Leaves, Green Plant Trimmings, Tea Leaves and Tea Bags, Hair, Grass (fresh), Manure, Seaweed, Algae, Bone Meal	Dryer Lint, Grass Clippings (Dried), Leaves (Dry), Woodchips (Small Amounts), Sawdust, Straw, Buckwheat Hulls, Corn Cob, Cotton, Wool, Silk Scrap, Hay, Straw, Paper, Peat Moss and Pine Needles	BBQ Charcoal, Fish, Coal Ash, Meats, Dairy Products, Bones, Oils, Peanut Butter, Fats, Diseased or Insect-Infested Plants, Feces, Weeds w/ Mature Seeds, Wood Ash or Dust that is treated , Materials Contaminated By Chemicals

Troubleshooting Your Compost Pile

Problem: The compost pile doesn't get very hot, even though it has enough materials.

Possible Solution: You might need to add more nitrogen ingredients such as green grass clippings or manure to correct the nitrogen to carbon ratio. Make sure the ingredients are damp. Too dry, and they won't start cooking.

Problem: The compost heap heats up and cools down like it is suppose to, but a lot of the materials are large and not broken down

Possible Solution: Because the materials are big and chunky, they don't provide enough surface area for the microorganisms to finish their work. When you put materials in the composter make sure they are chopped into small pieces.

Problem: Whew, the compost pile has a strong odor.

Possible Solution: The pile is undergoing what's called "anaerobic decomposition." Anaerobic means "without oxygen" which is why it smells like the beach at low tide. You need to introduce oxygen back into the pile by turning it at least once a week.

Problem: Animals on the loose!

Possible Solution: If dogs, mice, rats, cats or raccoons are getting into your compost pile, fence it in, cover it with wire and avoid adding meat scraps and bones.