

Compost it. Don't waste it.



About 30 percent of what South Carolinians throw away is yard debris and food waste. Composting keeps this material out of landfills and turns it into a valuable product you can use.

Composting is a simple way to:

- waste less;
- save money; and
- help protect the environment.



Plus, it's easy.

Get started today!

*Flip this card over for a list of items you can
compost in your backyard ...*

*... and
more on
the back.*

Compost This!



What to Put in Your Backyard Composter

Greens

- ✓ Uncooked or cooked fruits and vegetables
- ✓ Breads and grains
- ✓ Coffee grounds and filters
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Houseplants
- ✓ Tea bags
- ✓ Hair and fur
- ✓ Chicken, rabbit, cow, horse manure

Browns

- ✓ Yard trimmings (e.g. leaves, twigs)
- ✓ Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- ✓ Eggshells
- ✓ Nut shells
- ✓ Sawdust and untreated wood chips
- ✓ Hay and straw
- ✓ Houseplants and used potting soil
- ✓ Shredded newspaper, cardboard and paper

Avoid composting meat or dairy products, dog, cat or human waste, diseased plants, weeds and treated wood to keep your compost pile odor, pest and disease-free.

Compost Troubleshooting

Having trouble with your backyard compost pile? Below are some solutions to common composting problems.

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Rotten egg smell	Too wet and/or not enough air flow	Turn your pile and add browns if it's soggy.
Ammonia smell	Too much nitrogen	Add browns and turn your pile.
Pile not decomposing	Too wet	Add browns and turn your pile.
	Too dry	Add water. Your pile should be the consistency of a damp sponge.
	Lack of nitrogen	Add greens and turn your pile.
	Pile too small	Add more material (greens and browns). Your pile should be about 1 cubic yard in size.
Rodents	Meat, dairy and/or fats in pile	Remove or bury animal products. Make sure your pile is enclosed or in a rodent-proof bin.
Flies/gnats	Exposed greens	Cover with browns, finished compost or soil.

For more information about backyard composting visit www.scdhec.gov/compost or call 1-800-768-7348. For recycling information, visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle.

