



When composting remember to keep

- A good mix of green and brown.
- The material moist, but not wet, too much moisture will lead to poor compost.
- Heat, the heat helps the decomposition of organic material. Open piles can be covered with a tarp to speed along the process.
- Turning it. Just a few turns every 2-3 days will help provide the air needed for composting.
- Covering compost pile with leaves or yard clippings will help the process.




Don't Let Your Food Be Wasted!

WHAT DID YOU RECYCLE TODAY?

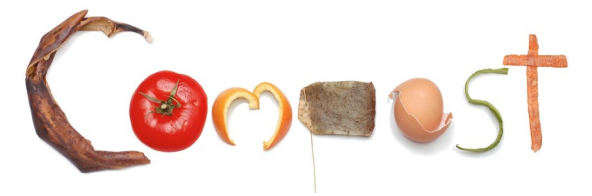
Paper Metal Glass Plastic



DON'T FORGET TO KEEP YOUR GREEN CLEAN

www.cityofmerced.org

209.385.6800



Basics for the backyard gardener




Public Works Department
 209.385.6800
Cityofmerced.org





Compost mix general rule of thumb

- 50/50 mix of green vs brown



4 key elements to composting

- Water
- Air
- Temperature (Heat)
- Organic material

Composting Dos

Green Parts (Nitrogen-Rich)

- Grass Cuttings
- Weeds (before they develop seeds)
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Coffee grounds, tea leaves, tea bags

Brown Parts (Carbon-Rich)

- Fallen leaves
- Twigs, sawdust, animal bedding/shavings, wood chips
- Cardboard tubes from toilet paper and paper towel, paper plates and cups, paper bags, etc.
- Dried flowers
- Hay or straw
- Cotton clothing, torn up (small amounts), dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- Human or animal hair/fur
- Egg shells
- Corn husks or stalks

Composting Don'ts

- Rose bush stems (the thorns don't usually break down as fast as everything else)
- Coal or charcoal ash
- Dairy products of any kind
- Bread, Pasta, or other grain-based foods
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants
- Fats, grease, lard, or oils
- Meat or fish bones and scraps
- Pet waste (it might pass on harmful bacteria or waste)

