

The Right Mixture: How to Keep Your Compost Happy, Healthy and Thriving

BROWNS:

Compost requires a good mix of carbon and nitrogen-rich materials. 'Browns' include materials such as paper, cardboard and paper rolls, dry yard waste, straw, sawdust and used potting soil. Add about twice as much brown material as green material to your compost.



GREENS:

'When thinking of 'compostable materials', the most common idea is 'Greens'. Greens' provide nitrogen and include material such as wet yard trimmings (fresh grass clippings and green leaf scraps), vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and tea bags.



AIR:

The bacteria need air to break down the organic material in your composting pile. Without it, your pile may decompose slowly and produce nasty odors. Make sure to turn your pile by either rotating your bin or by manually turning it with a shovel/pitchfork.



WATER

The right amount of moisture is important to keep your compost area active. Too little moisture will cause the pile to compost slowly. Too much moisture will cause the pile to smell. Try to keep the pile damp, like a wrung-out sponge!

