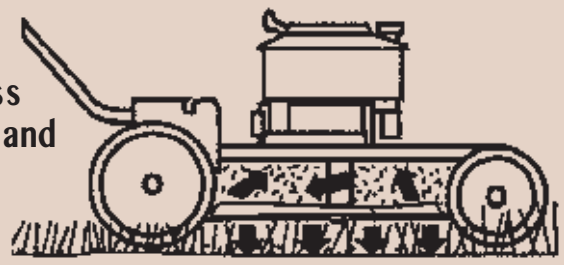
TYPES OF COMPOSTING

YARD SCRAPS

GRASSCYCLING

Grasscycling involves cutting grass and then leaving the clippings on the lawn to break down. The thin layer of grass mulch feeds the new grass growth and conserves water and does not cause thatch. This method eliminates the need to collect grass clippings.

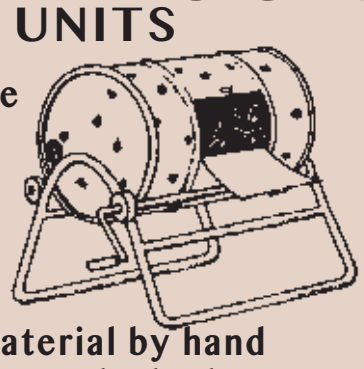


MULCHING

Mulch is any material used on the soil surface to keep weeds down, retain moisture in the soil and prevent erosion.

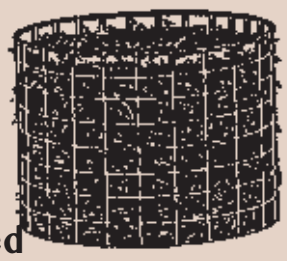
CONTAINER SYSTEMS

TURNING UNITS



Turning units are above ground bins, such as rotating barrels, which enable users to turn composting material by hand crank or similar method. They produce compost as quickly as one month. The turning process provides increased air circulation that converts yard materials into compost more quickly than in holding units.

OPEN UNITS



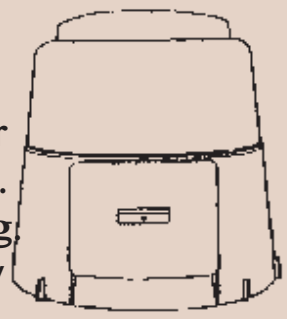
Holding units are temporary and transportable bins made of wire mesh, fencing, or recycled plastic, shaped into a ring, or wooden pallets tied together to form a cube. Open units tend to dry out, so they will require more frequent watering. They improve the appearance of a compost pile, and they aid in heat retention. They usually produce compost in six to eighteen months.

ENCLOSED UNITS

Enclosed units are the least labor intensive home composting process. They allow for continuous composting. They have minimal air slots to allow for moisture and heat retention and rodent resistance. They will produce compost in three to six months.

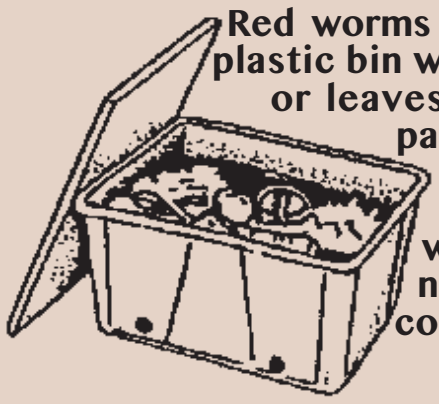
FOOD SCRAPS

ENCLOSED UNITS



Enclosed units are the least labor intensive home composting process. They allow for continuous composting. They have minimal air slots to allow for moisture and heat retention and rodent resistance. They will produce compost in three to six months.

VERMICOMPOSTING



Red worms placed in a wooden or plastic bin with moistened bedding or leaves, shredded cardboard, paper or newspaper, can convert vegetative food scraps into worm castings, another nutrient-rich form of compost.

Composting Troubleshooting Chart

SYMPTOMS	PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
pile not composting	too dry	moisten until slightly damp
	too much woody material	turn, add fresh green materials or organic fertilizer
pile smells rotten and attracts flies	too wet	turn, add dry materials
	non-compostables present	remove meat, grease, etc. and turn
pile smells like ammonia	too much green material (or food scraps)	turn, add dry or woody materials

IT'S • EASY • INEXPENSIVE • EXCELLENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

HOME COMPOSTING

Your Guide to

WHY SHOULD I COMPOST?

- Turns organic household & yard waste into a valuable resource.
- Free source of fertilizer. Improves the fertility and health of soil
- Decreases need for commercial fertilizer, reducing nitrogen pollution of waterways.
- Saves water by helping the soil retain moisture reducing water run-off.
- Benefits the environment by reducing the need for trash trips thus reducing landfill fees and saves limited landfill space.

Maintaining a compost pile requires as little as five minutes per week. It's easy, too!

The Ocean County Northern and Southern Recycling Centers have compost available for residents and municipalities free of charge. The County Recycling Centers accept leaves and light brush from residents, municipalities and landscapers. Unbagged leaves and brush four inches in diameter or less will be accepted.

Northern Recycling Center
(732) 367-0802
Southern Recycling Center
(609) 978-0913

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For further information on solid waste activities in Ocean County, contact:

OCEAN COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
HOTLINE
1-800-55-RECYCLE

OCEAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
129 Hooper Ave., P.O. Box 2191
Toms River, NJ 08754
Administrative Office
(732) 506-5047
www.co.ocean.nj.us/recycle
www.2Good2Waste.org/oceancountynj

OCEAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
Gerry P. Little, Freeholder Liaison

Administration
Ernest J. Kuhlwein, Jr.,
Director

Arthur Burns,
Superintendent, Recycling Operations

Sean McLaughlin,
Environmental Specialist 1

Ali Baranowski,
Environmental Specialist Trainee

Mary Jerkowicz,
Senior Program Monitor

Operations

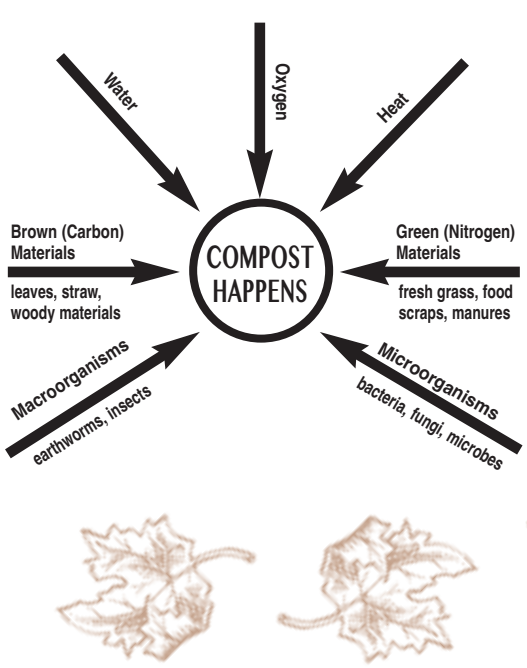
Richard Waters,
Composting Operations

William Bernstein,
Supervisor, Northern Recycling Center

Frederic Kociban,
Supervisor, Southern Recycling Center

WHAT IS COMPOST?

Composting is the natural process of decomposition and recycling of dark, crumbly, earthy smelling soil conditioner known as compost.



HOW CAN I COMPOS

Combine green, wet, high-nitrogen materials like grass and food scraps with dry, brown, high-carbon materials like leaves and woody matter in a compost pile or bin and layer or mix them together. Use no more than 50% wet, green material to avoid odors. For more brown materials, sun-dry your grass clippings until they turn brown.

CHOP up larger pieces of compost materials into smaller ones to speed the process of decomposition.

PLACE materials in your compost bin or pile. The ideal size is about one cubic yard.

BURY food scraps 6-12" below the surface of the compost pile.

ADD water to maintain moisture - about as damp as a wrung-out sponge.

MOISTEN dry materials when adding them to the pile.

For quicker composting, turn or mix the compost pile occasionally.

For more information on composting contact:

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service Hotline
(732) 349-1245

Other sources on composting:

Backyard Composting, **Harmonious Technologies**
Keep it Off the Curb, **Harmonious Technologies**
Redesigning the American Lawn, **Bormann, Balmori & Geballe**
Worms Eat My Garbage, **Mary Applehof**

WHAT SHOULD I COMPOST?

YES ☺

- coffee grounds
- coffee filters
- corn stalks
- flowers
- fruit peels
- grass clippings
- hair
- leaves
- manure
- nutshells
- sawdust
- shrub prunings
- seaweed
- tea bags
- vegetable trimmings
- waste paper
- weeds
- wet paper towels
- wood ash and chips

NO ☹

- charcoal ashes
- dairy or bakery products
- dog and cat feces
- fish scraps
- greasy foods or cooking oil
- invasive plants
- meat scraps or bones
- plants treated with herbicides
- unchopped wood waste
- weeds with seeds
- diseased vegetation