

What to Compost

Greens (Nitrogen-rich) ✓

- Fresh grass clippings
- Plant trimmings
- Vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea Bags
- Human hair
- Animal fur
- Manure

Browns (Carbon-rich) ✓

- Newspaper (torn in 1" strips and crumpled)
- Cardboard (torn into pieces)
- Coffee filters
- Tissue / kraft brown paper
- Fallen leaves
- Dried grass clippings
- Sawdust
- Straw
- Paper towels or napkins

Other Acceptable Materials ✓

- Rinsed and pulverized egg shells
- Floor sweepings
- Fireplace ash (in small amounts)
- Dryer lint

Wildlife Attractants ⚠

- Grains, rice, or pasta
- Cooked food scraps
- Grease or oil
- Fruit scraps
- Meat
- Fish
- Bones
- Dairy

Unacceptable Materials ❌

- Dog or cat feces
- Charcoal Briquettes
- "Biodegradable" plastic
- Kitty litter
- Drywall
- Diapers

Compost Troubleshooting

Symptom	Diagnosis / Treatment
Bad Odour	Pile is too wet &/or not properly aerated. Turn pile and add dry brown materials
Pile is dry throughout	Possibly too much woody material. Turn and moisten pile.
Compost is damp and warm only in the middle.	Not enough material; add new materials and mix with the old.
Pests around bin	Improper materials added, or not covered well. Avoid "wildlife attractants" (insert), and add brown material to cover.
Pile is damp and "sweet" smelling, but not heating up	Not enough nitrogen-rich (green) material. Add green material such as fresh grass clippings or manure to the pile.

Resources

Compost Council of Canada

www.compost.org

Compost Education Center

Great factsheets

www.compost.bc.ca

Wild Safe BC

www.wildsafebc.com

Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

www.rdks.bc.ca



Tips for Composting in Bear Country

Keep Wildlife Wild and Neighborhoods Safe



March 2017

Composting with Care in Bear Country

Reduce the Risk of Wildlife Interactions

1 Identify and Eliminate Attractants

Ensure your yard is not an easy food source for wildlife by managing these common bear attractants.

Chicken coops: Surround with an electric fence and keep as clean as possible to reduce odor. Keep feed in a bear-proof container.

Fruit bearing plants: Surround with an electric fence. Pick fruit often and remove fallen fruit from the ground.

BBQ: Keep it clean.

Bird feeders: Only put out bird feeders when natural sources of food for birds are scarce (and bears are hibernating): November to March.

Recycling: Keep it clean: rinse out empty containers and store it inside.

Garbage: Keep in a bear-proof container and only put out on the morning of collection.

Accessible pet food: Store pet food indoors.

Poorly maintained compost: Follow the “What to Compost” guidelines and composting tips in this brochure to keep a well maintained compost.

Garden Tip

A simple electric fence is an effective and easy way to deter bears (and other wildlife) from gardens, fruit trees, compost, and chicken coops.

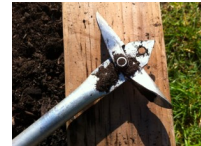


2 Go Big on Brown Materials

To maintain a healthy and odor-free compost bin, it is important to add equal parts of brown and green materials.

Brown materials should be added on top of every addition of green materials, so that the green layer is covered with approximately 10 cm of browns. This acts as a “biofilter” and helps to reduce odors. See reverse for “What to Compost”

Aeration of the compost pile is best done with a “Wing Digger” tool (pictured), or a strong, straight stick.



3 Add Oxygen

Mix and aerate your compost often. The microorganisms that promote an active and healthy compost pile require oxygen. Make sure to aerate all the way to the bottom of the pile, where materials are most compressed.

Lack of oxygen will lead to anaerobic bacterial activity, resulting in a smelly compost bin; not good for preventing wildlife attraction.

Be sure to cover the pile with a layer of browns every time it is mixed.

4 Make it a Community Effort

Communicate with your neighbors to ensure each household is doing their part to reduce conflicts with wildlife.

Once a bear finds an easy food source it is likely to return, and sadly, most often a “fed bear is a dead bear”.



Compost Tip

Low quality household paper products, such as egg cartons, paper bags, tissue paper, and paper towel rolls are a great source of brown materials for your compost bin!

5 Crop Management

Pick fruit as early as possible and do not leave ripe fruit hanging. Pick up fallen fruit and nuts as quickly as possible.

If there is more fruit than you can use, consider donating to local food banks, or sharing with your neighbors.

If any fruit is to be composted, it should be buried in a hole with at least 30 cm of soil covering to avoid detection by bears.

Keep a watchful eye. If your yard is attracting smaller scavengers, such as rodents; you can be sure a nearby bear would be interested too.

