

Easy as 1, 2, 3



1

Chop materials if you want them to break down more quickly



2

Mix 'browns' with 'greens'



3

Keep compost as moist as a wrung-out sponge

A basic compost pile needs only four ingredients:



BROWNS - carbon-rich, dry materials (branches, leaves, paper & sawdust)



GREENS - nitrogen-rich, moist materials (grass clippings, fruits & vegetables)



AIR



WATER

BROWNS

- Cotton or wool rags
- Dryer & vacuum lint
- Eggshells
- Nut shells
- Fireplace ashes
- Sawdust
- Hay & straw
- Chopped yard trimmings (leaves, branches, twigs)
- Houseplants
- Used potting soil
- Wood chips
- Leaves
- Shredded newspaper
- Cardboard rolls
- Clean paper, including lightly used paper towels & napkins

GREENS

- Fruits & vegetables
- Breads & grains
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Grass clippings & young weeds
- Paper tea bags (no staples)

WHAT NOT TO ADD:

- Metal, glass or plastic
- Meat, fish or bones
- Dairy products
- Grease, lard or oils
- Pet wastes, including cat litter
- Soiled diapers
- Black walnut tree leaves or twigs
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides
- Treated or painted wood



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