

# COMPOSTING GUIDELINES

## What to compost<sup>i</sup>:

- Animal manure
- Cardboard rolls
- Clean paper
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Cotton rags
- Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- Eggshells
- Fireplace ashes
- Fruits and vegetables
- Grass clippings
- Hair and fur
- Hay and straw
- Houseplants
- Leaves
- Nut shells
- Sawdust
- Shredded newspaper
- Tea bags
- Wood chips
- Wool rags
- Yard trimmings

## What NOT to compost<sup>1</sup>:

- Black walnut tree leaves or twigs
  - Releases substances that might be harmful to plants
- Coal or charcoal ash
  - Might contain substances harmful to plants
- Dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs
  - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants
  - Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants
- Fats, grease, lard, or oils
  - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Meat or fish bones and scraps
  - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Pet wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)
  - Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides
  - Might kill beneficial composting organisms

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/rrr/composting/basic.htm>

MAKE SURE TO ALTERNATE LAYERS OF BROWN (DRY) MATERIAL AND GREEN (MOIST) MATERIAL.

**Rule: 2/3 brown and 1/3 green!**