



COMPOSTING AT HOME

Composting at a Glance

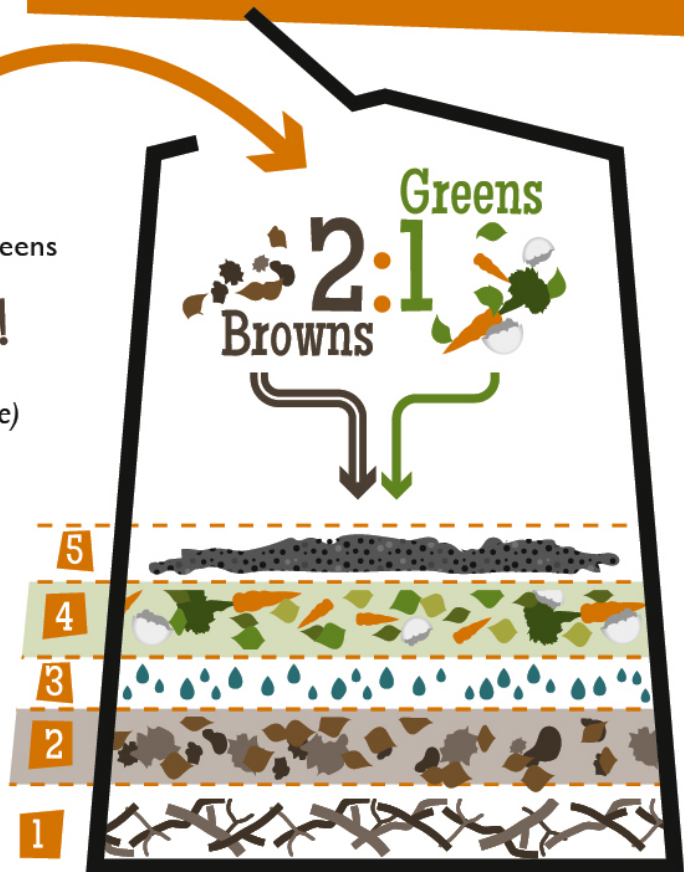
The Recipe

2. Then keep adding!

2 units of browns on top of 1 unit of greens

1. Set up the base layers!

- Fifth **5** One shovelful of soil (*only once*)
- Fourth **4** Kitchen catcher full of greens (*about 5 cm*)
- Third **3** Wet the pile until damp
- Second **2** 10 cm of browns
- First **1** 5 cm of twigs (*1 cm or less in diameter and up to 10 cm long*); use paper egg cartons or skip if you don't have twigs



Water Weekly

- Keep pile as damp as a wrung-out sponge
- If you squeeze a handful it should stick together but not drip
- Don't forget the sides and corners



Aerate Weekly

- Use aerating tool to mix the layers
- Get to the bottom
- Don't forget the sides and corners

Ingredients

GREEN materials

- Uncooked vegetable & fruit scraps
- Tea leaves & bags
- Coffee grounds
- Fresh green leaves
- Disease-free yard & garden waste: plants, flowers
- Egg shells

BROWN materials

- **Dried leaves – the best of the browns**
- Coffee filters
- Paper egg cartons, drink carriers & toilet paper tubes
- Shredded newspaper, brown paper bags & brown packing paper
- Plain brown cardboard in small pieces

NOT recommended

- Meat, fish, bones
- Fats, oils
- Dairy products
- Pet waste & kitty litter
- Diseased plant material
- Ripened weed seeds & quack grass
- Cooked food

Questions?

environmental.initiatives@reddeer.ca
 or 403-342-8750
www.reddeer.ca/composting



Harvesting the Compost



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It's ready when...

When you open the door at the bottom, material looks and feels like topsoil:

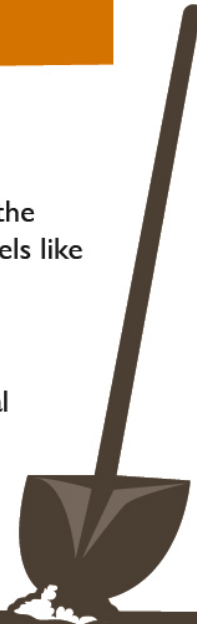
- Dark & crumbly
- Smells earthy
- You can't identify the material



You got yourself
some COMPOST!

How to use

- **When ready, shovel out from bottom**
- **In the garden:**
Put compost directly into garden soil
- **For planting:**
Mix one-third compost with two-thirds soil
- **For the lawn or cosmetic areas:**
Sift compost through half inch wire screen or milk crate



Composting Through The Seasons

Summer:

- Add 2 units of browns for every unit of greens
- Mix and water weekly
- Water more often if it's in a very sunny location

Fall:

- Continue to add 2 units of browns for every 1 unit of greens
- Mix and water weekly
- Collect a minimum 4 garbage bags of fallen leaves to last through the year
- To make room in the composter for winter, harvest the compost that's ready
- At the end of October, give it one last good mixing and watering before winter

Winter:

- Continue to add 2 units of browns for every unit of greens throughout the winter
- If you have room, add a thin layer of snow to build in moisture

Spring:

- As soon as thawed mix whole pile well; start by mixing top third then work your way down in thirds
- Add a shovelful of garden soil to reactivate
- Continue to add 2 units of browns for every unit of greens
- Mix and water weekly
- In mid-May open the door at the bottom and look to see if there is black, dirt-like substance; if so, harvest



Troubleshooting

- **Does it smell?** → Add browns and mix well
- **Are there pests?** → Add water
- **Is it taking a long time to break down?** → Ensure the pieces you're adding are smaller than a deck of cards, that the pile is consistently as damp as a wrung-out sponge, and that there are enough browns

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