

# Household Composting



## Why Compost?

- Compost provides free soil conditioner that improves plant, garden and lawn growth
- Compost acts like a sponge, helping retain moisture and nutrients in your soil
- Compost helps break down heavy clay soils or aids in binding sandy soils
- Compost returns nutrients back to the soil therefore eliminating the need for fertilizers
- By composting, less will go to the landfill, saving you money

## Green Nitrogen Rich Materials to Compost

- Green leaves
- Weeds before they go to seed
- Vegetable/fruit peelings
- Spoiled food
- Green grass clippings
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Crushed egg shells
- Breads
- Cooked pasta and rice
- Flowers

## Brown Carbon Rich Materials to Compost

- Evergreen needles
- Dry Leaves
- Dried brown grass
- Bark Chips
- Straw
- Prunings & cuttings
- Dryer & vacuum lint
- Hair
- Bird cage cleanings
- Small amounts of sawdust & Cardboard

*A rule of thumb: use roughly equal amounts of Carbon Rich (BROWN) and Nitrogen Rich (GREEN) materials in your back yard compost bin.*

## Do Not Compost:

- Meat, bones and fish scraps
- Dairy products
- Fatty/oily foods including cheese, butter, oil and salad dressing
- Weeds with mature seeds
- Pet wastes
- Walnut shells
- Rhubarb leaves
- Plant and grass that is chemically treated

## **Controlling Pests:**

If your compost is correctly maintained and your bin properly constructed, flies, rats and mice will not create a problem. Flies can be controlled by immediately covering new material with dry soil or sawdust and turning the pile frequently.

Meat scraps should be avoided so they do not attract rodents and pests. Make sure that the container is secure and stable.

**Leaf and Yard waste is now also accepted in certified compostable bags and Kraft paper bags.**

**The City of Stratford sells compost containers for \$25.00 each. Call Waste Reduction Coordinator for details: 519-271-0250 ext. 279.**