

# Static Pile Backyard Composting

## 12 Easy Steps

- 1** Obtain a simple enclosure to hold about 1 cubic yard of compostables. A simple, inexpensive bin can be constructed from an 11-foot length of welded fence wire cut from a 48-inch-wide roll with a 2-inch by 4-inch mesh. Join the two ends to form a cylinder. If a larger bin is needed, use five wooden shipping pallets. Lay one down, then stand the other four pallets up to form the four sides. Tie the corners together and continue the following 11 steps.
- 2** Obtain a long-handled pitchfork for handling the compostables and the compost.
- 3** Get a 5-gallon bucket for carrying water and compost material, or use a water hose and wheelbarrow.
- 4** Put the compost bin on a flat surface convenient to the kitchen and near the garden.
- 5** Start the compost pile. This may be done any time of the year.
- 6** Fill the compost bin, and keep it full. Start with shredded leaves, yard trimmings, food scraps (not grease or greasy materials) and wet paper towels, depending on material available.
- 7** Add the food scraps to the center of the compost pile. Do not “dump and run.” Use your pitchfork. Never leave food scraps showing in the pile.
- 8** Turn your compost pile one week after starting, at two-week intervals for two months and then as often as you wish. When you squeeze the composting material in your hand and do not feel moisture, add water to the pile.
- 9** When the pile no longer needs turning, remove the wire mesh bin. If you do not use the compost immediately, mound up the composted material and cover it with plastic to keep it dry.
- 10** Reload your bin as additional material comes available. The material will shrink, but keep the bin full. Stockpile leaves to add to your pile as needed to keep the bin full.
- 11** Two bins are recommended. When a bin is full, don't continue to add material. Manage it into compost and start filling the second bin.
- 12** Use the finished compost in the garden as a mulch or soil conditioner. To make compost into soil, screen it and mix two parts screened compost with one part sand. If you don't have a garden, donate your compost to a church, school or neighborhood park.



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