

COMPOSTING FACTS...

Up to 30% of an average household's waste is organic and can be turned into compost.

Composting is the best way to treat organic waste as not only does it save valuable landfill space by reducing the amount we throw away, but it replaces commercially produced peat products which can damage important wildlife sites.

Whilst compost does not completely replace fertilizers its use is the key to an organic garden.

It makes excellent 'mulch' to discourage weeds and keep moisture in the soil.

Sieved compost is ideal for potting, window boxes and hanging baskets.

Pick up your free composters at the town office...proof of residency in the town of Carstairs will be requested.

**“Keep Carstairs”
GREEN!**



TOWN OF CARSTAIRS
*Box 370
844 Centre Street
Carstairs, AB T0M 0N0
Phone: 403-337-3341*

GUIDE TO COMPOSTING

TOWN OF CARSTAIRS



*Looking to our
future...*

HOW IT WORKS...

Composting is the decomposition of plant remains and other once-living materials to make an earthy substance that's excellent for adding to houseplants or gardens.



Biological agents like worms, insects, fungi bacterial and other micro-organisms chew up the materials which are further broken down by oxidation (exposure to air), reduction and hydrolysis (exposure to water).



HOW TO GET STARTED...

Many people keep their kitchen wastes under the sink in a large plastic container with a re-sealable lid. When the container is full, empty it on to the compost pile.

If you have a yard waste find a suitable area to keep the materials until you can add them to the compost pile.



WHAT TO COMPOST...

Yard waste such as grass clippings, fallen leaves, weeds, tree fruit and berries and the remains of garden plants make excellent compost. You can also compost kitchen scraps such as fruit and vegetable peels and trimmings, eggshells, teabags, coffee grounds and filters. Woody yard waste like branches and brush can be used in limited amounts as long as they are cut into small pieces.

DO NOT... Compost meat, bones, grease, fat or fatty foods like cheese, salad dressing or leftover cooking oil, as they may attract pest or contribute to odor problems.

HELPFUL TIPS...

The composting process takes too long—if the pile doesn't decrease in size or generate heat, composting may need a boost. If the pile is dry, add water and mix thoroughly. If the pile is wet and muddy, spread it in the sun and add dry material.

The pile smells like ammonia—The pile may have too many greens, add more browns.



The pile smells like sulfur—The pile may be too wet and not getting enough air. Loosen up the pile break up clumps and unblock vents to help the pile breathe.

The compost material is ready to use when it has an "earthy" smell, dark in colour. The composting process can take from two months to two years, depending on the materials added and the effort involved.