

RECIPE

Biologically Active Compost



Ready in **3 Months**

Serves **billions**

Ingredients

- **Fungal “Brown” Foods** (ex. Dry brown leaves, shredded cardboard, shredded newspaper, straw, woodchips)
- **Bacterial “Green” Foods** (ex. dried green leaves, dried + chipped hedge trimmings)
- **Party Foods** (ex. Nitrogen-fixing plants like clover, peas, alfalfa; or food waste, manure)
- Air and Water
- 3-4ft tall wire mesh that will close to a circle with diameter at least 3ft
- Removable clamps/bungees to secure wire mesh, canvas tarp
- Compost **Thermometer**

Preparation

1. **Night before:** Portion out your materials so that the pile will be **60% brown foods, 30% green foods, and 10% party foods**
 - **Wet-up** the dry ingredients by soaking in rain water overnight
2. **Day of:** Make a tall cylinder out of your wire mesh and secure it with clamps
3. **Toss in the foods** - layers are ok, or you can mix everything together on a tarp first
4. Spray to ensure the pile has **enough water but do not over-water** (don't want to see water pooling out the bottom)
5. **Cover** with a canvas tarp or damp cardboard

6. **1-2 days later:** take 3 temperature readings from the center of the pile and check moisture by squeezing a handful of material very tightly - you should barely see **1 or 2 drops between your fingers**
7. If pile is near **160 degrees, turn it:**
 - Unclamp mesh, peel it away, and set up nearby
 - Pull off **top layer and set aside**
 - Put the **hot middle of the pile into the bottom** of the new pile (wet-up if necessary)
 - Put the **top material into the center**
 - Put the **sides** of the old pile on top of the new pile
8. Continue to **check temperatures** after another couple days to a week - wait for temperature to reach close to 160 degrees and **then turn again** following the same procedure
9. **Turn a third and final time** at the 160 degree mark so that all of the material has had a turn inside the hottest middle of the pile
10. Let the pile **sit for a month to 6 months** after your final turn to maximize the beneficial microbe populations, then apply freely!

Tips

- If you see a **white layer that looks like ash** forming within your pile: turn it! This is **actinobacteria** and its telling you the oxygen level is dropping
- Mix a few pounds of compost into chlorine-free water, agitate for a couple of minutes and use the **extract** to build soil health!
- Learn to test your compost with a **microscope**, or find someone who can, to make sure that it is teeming with life!



↑ These brown strands are "good guy" fungi from a very active compost pile - this recipe will help bring them to your pile too!



Produced by Renaissance Soil

Email: Revivesoil@gmail.com
with comments or questions

