

How to Obtain a Backyard Compost Bin?

GLENDALE RESIDENTS CAN OBTAIN A COMPOST BIN BY:

- Email us at Recycle@glendaleca.gov
- Include your address and phone number.
- A follow-up will include further instructions.
- For more information about composting visit www.glendaleca.gov/composting.

ABOUT THE REDMON 65 GALLON HOME COMPOST BIN:

- **Dimensions:** 26"W x 26"D x 30.75"H
- **Weight:** Approximately 20 lbs
- **How it works:** Add organic material to the top of the bin. Bin air slots allow for the flow of oxygen through the sides. Finished compost is retrieved from the bottom doors.



Troubleshooting Tips

These tips will help you identify solutions to the most frequent issues. Remember to stir your compost, add water, and include equal amounts of greens and browns.

How to Address Odor?

- Freeze food scraps before putting them in the bin.
- Add woodchips as a bulking agent.

Is Organic Material Not Breaking Down?

- Shred materials into small pieces.
- Avoid plant roots that will grow new plants.

Is Organic Material Not Getting Hot?

- Aerate or add woodchips to create carbon.

Is Organic Material Too Dry?

- You don't want material too moist. Damp material is preferred.
- If water runs between your hands, it's too moist.

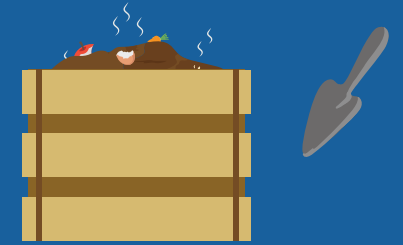
Is Your Bin Too Hot?

- Add woodchips as a bulking agent.

Is Organic Material Attracting Rodents or Vermin?

- Make sure there's no meat or dairy.
- Properly close all openings; hardware cloth on bottom.
- Cover green layer with a brown layer.
- Smaller bugs may be a nuisance, but it's normal.

Reduce Your Waste: COMPOST AT HOME!



DID YOU KNOW?

Organics (foods scraps and yard trimmings) comprise almost 40% of Glendale's waste? Begin composting at home to reduce waste and create a valuable garden resource in your own backyard.

What is composting? Composting is the decomposition of organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, that break down to create a valuable soil amendment to make soil and plants healthier while reducing waste, and greenhouse gases.

At the same time, home composting:

- Reduces waste in local landfills
- Creates a valuable soil amendment
- Helps the soil retain moisture by increasing nutrients
- Improves soil structure and increases the nutritional value of edible gardens



How to Compost:

- 1 Required Space:**
Footprint: 3 x 3 x 3 feet.
- 2 Water:** Water should be in close proximity to ensure that the pile stays moist, but not too wet. It should feel like a damp sponge.
- 3 Browns:**
Place twigs, leaves, small branches and cardboard on the bottom about 4-6 inches deep.
Greens:
Use fruit and yard trimmings in equal ratio (1:1) about 4-6 inches deep.
- 4 Layers:** Continue adding layers of brown and green material until 3 feet deep.
- 5 Stir:** Stir your compost mixture every 7 to 10 days. Continue to layer your greens & browns to maintain 3 feet of ingredients. The compost should get hot to about 140 degrees Fahrenheit to kill bacteria.
- 6 Watch & Wait.** When your compost mixture becomes brown and crumbly, it's ready to use from the bottom. Be patient. The entire process can take 2 to 9 months, sometimes up to 1 year. Once established, you will have an ongoing supply for harvesting compost as needed.



What Goes IN Your Compost Bin: Greens & Browns?

GREENS

- Coffee grounds & filters
- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Grass clippings
- Green leaves



BROWNS

- Dry grass & weeds
- Dry leaves
- Nut shells
- Paper towel & toilet paper rolls
- Shredded paper & cardboard
- Stale bread, grains, & cereals
- Straw, woodchips & sawdust



What Stays Out of Your Compost Bin?

-  Meat, dairy, pet litter or feces, and animal byproducts may attract vermin. Decaying meat may contain pathogens that are harmful to humans.
-  Diseased plants & pesticides could create contaminated compost that can spread disease in your garden.
-  Weeds & seeds could remain active in compost and germinate later when transferred to your garden.
-  Glossy/treated paper may have plastic that won't break down and chemicals you don't want in the garden. The material will also slow down the composting process.

Harvesting Compost

Your compost is ready to use when it's dark brown, crumbly, and smells like fresh-turned earth.

Use a compost screen to sift usable compost from contents that need more time to decompose.

Shake the screen so usable compost falls through. Remove finished materials from your compost bin. Put the unfinished compost back in your compost bin.

