

## WANT TO COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS BUT NOT AT HOME?

### Food Scrap Programs

Many towns accept food scraps at the transfer station, contract with commercial food scrap collectors or you can subscribe with a food scrap collector directly.

### Municipal Programs

Best place to start is by contacting your local recycling coordinator or public works using the QR Code.



### Contract with a Food Scrap Collector Directly



There are many companies that provide food scrap collection programs, learn more here using the QR Code.

## Resources

### Master Composting Program

<https://homegarden.cahnر.uconn.edu/master-composter/welcome-master-composter/>

### CT Compost Alliance

[www.ctcompostalliance.org](http://www.ctcompostalliance.org)

### Books

[The Compost Coach](#) by Kate Flood  
[Community Scale-Composting Systems](#)  
by James McSweeney

Learn to composting with worms:  
[Worms Eat My Garbage](#) by Mary Appelhof

# THANKS FOR BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION



**CT Department of Energy  
and Environmental  
Protection**

Sustainable Materials Management  
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.ct.gov/deep/composting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/composting)

# HOME COMPOSTING



## Why Compost?

- Reduces volume of garbage
- Saves money on disposal costs
- Enriches and adds nutrients to the soil
- Improves soil structure for better root growth, increased moisture and nutrient retention
- Suppresses disease and harmful pests
- Reduces need for chemical fertilizers

# What is Compost?

Compost is a dark, crumbly and earthy-smelling material made from decomposed organic matter such as food scraps, leaves, grass clippings and wood chips. Compost contains living organisms that require food, oxygen and water to survive.

Composting is our way of speeding up nature's decomposition process.

## Passive vs. Active Composting

Passive composting is virtually labor-free. It requires a holding bin and takes between 8-12 months to get finished compost.

Active composting requires more frequent turning and will produce compost much quicker than passive composting.

## 50:50 Brown to Green Ratio

It is important when composting to maintain a balance between carbon based materials (browns) and nitrogen based materials (greens).

**Brown** (carbon) materials include: dried grass, autumn dried leaves, saw dust, wood chips (untreated wood), straw.

**Green** (nitrogen) materials include: fruit & vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, eggshells.

# Compost Bins

You can make your own compost bin from wood pallets, a garbage can or wire mesh. Layer materials using proper ratio to get your pile started.



## Wood Pallet Bin

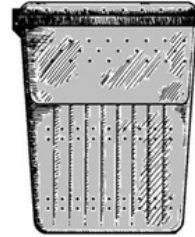
Materials: 4 to 6 pallets, heavy-duty plastic ties.

Use 4 pallets to form the sides of the bin and fasten the pallets together with ties. You can also use another pallet for a cover and one more for a base.

## Garbage Can Bin

Materials: garbage can with cover, drill.

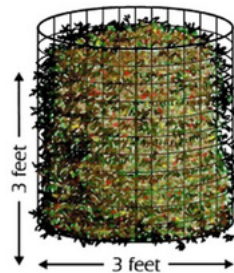
Drill holes all over the sides and bottom of the can. Cover the can to keep animals out of it.



## Wire Mesh Bin

Materials: 14 gauge or medium weight welded wire mesh, heavy-duty plastic ties.

Form a circle with the mesh and fasten with the ties.



Check with your town to learn about upcoming bin sales or purchase a bin from home improvement and garden centers, hardware stores or the internet at such sites as [connecticut.compostersale.com](http://connecticut.compostersale.com), [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

# Can I Put that in my Compost Bin?



## DO Compost:

- any vegetable or fruit scraps
- egg shells
- coffee grounds and filters
- tea bags (remove staples)
- newspaper, paper towels
- leaves and grass clippings



## DO NOT Compost at Home:

- meat, fish or bones
- dairy products
- diseased plants
- pet waste
- cat litter
- fats and oils
- wood and charcoal ash
- grass clippings treated with herbicides
- non-organic material like plastic and metal

