

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

IN ROSSLAND

Backyard composting is an easy way to save money, reduce your carbon footprint and recycle valuable nutrients back into your garden. This guide is designed to introduce you to some of the basic principles of composting and share some tips and tricks to do it here in Rossland.

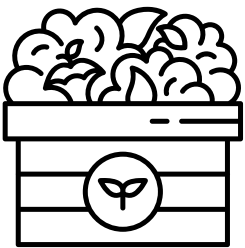
BENEFITS



- Organic waste represents 40% of the material we send to the landfill and accounts for 3.5% of the province's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Composting your organic waste in your own backyard will save you money on garbage disposal and reduce your carbon footprint.
- Adding compost to your soil improves its structure, texture and enriches it with micronutrients allowing you to grow larger and healthier plants and vegetables.
- Adding compost to soils increases their moisture retention and reduces water evaporation there by reducing the need to water your garden.

INGREDIENTS

Composting requires 4 basic ingredients



- **Water** is necessary for sustaining the microbial life in the pile.
- **Oxygen** is needed to maintain aerobic conditions needed for proper decomposition.
- **Nitrogen**-rich materials or "greens" are typically moist such food wastes, grass and coffee grounds and contain a higher ratio of nitrogen to carbon.
- **Carbon**-rich materials or "browns" are typically dry materials like leaves, straw, newspaper, and wood chips and help balance the green materials.

PUT IT IN

- Coffee grounds/filters
- Vegetables & fruits
- Egg shells
- Grass
- Newspaper
- Leaves
- Wood chips
- Yard debris



KEEP IT OUT

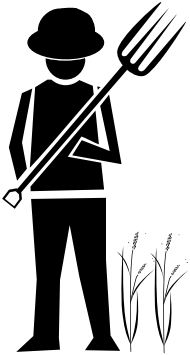
- Meat
- Bones
- Fish
- Dairy products
- Plastics
- Glass
- metals
- Pet waste



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STEP BY STEP



1. Select an out of the way yet accessible location in your yard.
2. Collect organic yard waste - "Browns" - and pile near by selected location.
3. Collect food waste - "Greens" - from your kitchen.
4. Layer "greens" between layers of "browns" in a way that completely covers greens. Brown layers should be two or three times thicker than green layers.
5. Use a shovel or pitch fork to turn your compost over into a new pile at least once a year to accelerate decomposition.
6. When compost is dark brown and crumbly with no recognizable contents and no foul odors add it to your garden!

LOCAL TIPS



- Our **long snowy winters** raise a few particular challenges to composting
 - When choosing a compost site think about what it looks like in the winter and how you are going to get to it. Nothing kills good intentions like a long trudge through deep snow!
 - In order to ensure you have access to "browns" in winter, stock pile them near the compost and put a roof over them for easy access.
- Our location amongst nature requires attention be paid to **wild animals**
 - A well managed compost should not attract animals.
 - If your compost is being visited by animals you should place it within an electric fence as to not create problematic interactions with wild animals.
- While there are no specific composting bylaws in Rossland, don't forget to be a good neighbour ... there is a bylaw for that!
- There are many different designs for composts - DIY and store bought. One that is effective, easy and inexpensive is the "three pile compost". This approach has one pile for your active compost, one pile for "Browns", and a third pile of the previous years turned compost. Using pallets is a common way to build such a compost.

Join a Sustainability Commission Compost Crawl and see how people are composting in your neighbourhood.