

**More information:**

“Hot” composting works best when you follow the 1-2-3– procedures and the pile is about a cubic yard in size (3’x3’x3’).

Heat can accelerate the composting process, kill weed seeds and plant diseases, but is not necessary. Cold piles also work, although more slowly.

If your pile is large enough but not heating, you can turn it and mix in some greens such as grass clippings, or add organic nitrogen fertilizer.

For faster hot composting and better weed seed kill, turn or mix your pile weekly.



**Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition Members**

- Town of Victor
- Town of Farmington
- Town of Macedon
- Town of Ontario
- Town of Walworth
- Village of Victor
- Wayne County Highway Department
- Ontario County Highway Department
- Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District



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

**For more information, contact:**

**Ontario County SWCD  
480 North Main Street  
Canandaigua NY 14424**

**585-396-1450**



**COMPOSTING:  
WASTE BECOMES  
WEALTH**



**Ontario-Wayne  
Stormwater Coalition**

***Protecting Water  
Preventing Pollution***

## COMPOSTING IS NATURE'S RECYCLING.

Turn your fruit, vegetable and yard waste into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling soil conditioner.

### Composting:

**Saves money** by replacing commercial soil conditioners.

**Helps garden and house plants** by improving the fertility and health of your soil.

**Saves water** by helping the soil hold moisture and reducing water runoff.

**Benefits the environment** by recycling valuable organic resources and extending the life of our landfill.

## Composting Protects Our Stormdrains and Waterways.



**Stormdrains are the headwaters of our streams and lakes.**

## COMPOSTING SYSTEMS:

**Rodent-resistant bins have a lid and floor, openings less than 1/4 ".**

Use for food waste and yard waste. Many styles are available. Deposit food waste (greens) and chopped yard waste (browns), mixing food waste below the surface. Harvest compost in 3-8 months. Rotation-capable bins may simplify mixing.



### Open Piles and Simple

**Bins:** Use for yard waste. Inexpensive or free to make from pallet boxes or wire. Deposit yard waste as created, mix browns and greens to prevent odors. Harvest compost in 12-18 months.



**If you're adventurous, try a worm bin for food waste!** Indoors or outside, worm castings make excellent fertilizer.

## PROCEDURES :

**1 CHOP** materials if you want them to break down more quickly.

**2 MIX** "browns" (dry, woody materials) with "greens" (moist, green materials). Mix often, weekly is best.

**3 MAINTAIN** air and water balance by keeping compost as moist as a wrung-out sponge.

**Browns, Greens, Air and Water** are the elements of good compost.

Compost	DO NOT COMPOST
Most Sawdusts	Meat, Bones, Fish
Chopped Woody Prunings	Dairy Products
Pine Needles	Grease
Leaves	Sawdust From Treated Lumber or Plywood
Grass Clippings	Dog, Cat or Bird Feces
Young Weeds	Inorganic Materials
Tea Bags	
Coffee Grounds & Filters	
Shredded Newspaper	
Fruit and Vegetable Waste	
Herbivore Manure	