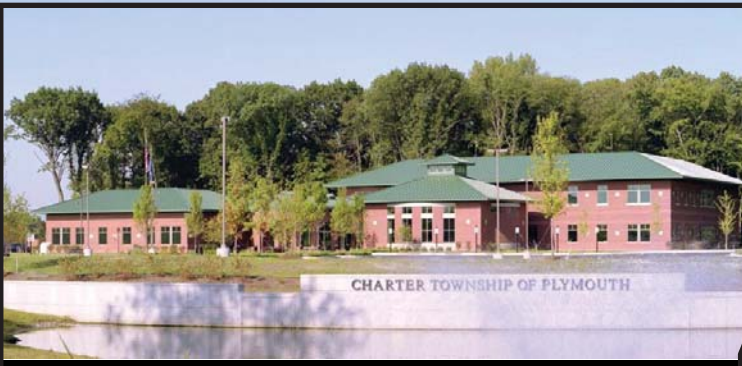


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH FACT SHEET BACKYARD COMPOSTING



Rouge River Series



Compost, aka, Gardener's Gold, benefits the garden in many ways. You can either leave the compost on the soil surface as a mulch or work it into the soil. As mulch, it can be spread on top of the soil where it will work to eliminate weeds and retain moisture or it can be dug into the soil as an amendment where it will improve soil structure for better absorption, retention of nutrients and water. Applying compost once or twice a year will ensure a beautiful garden and earthworms will love it. The more applications of compost, the better.

The composting process, when done correctly, is clean and odor free, and with the introduction of many types of backyard composting bins, it can even dress up your yard while you wait for the finished product.

HOW TO MAKE COMPOST

Step One -Select your Container

Container selection should be based on your lot size and the amount of materials you will generate to fill the bin. It will also depend on your style, too. The preferred type for subdivision living is one with a closing lid. This will help keep animals out of your container. There are basically two types of backyard bins, Stationary and Tumbler.

Stationary bins are available in plastic, wood and wire. You can make them yourself or purchase on-line or from local retailers.

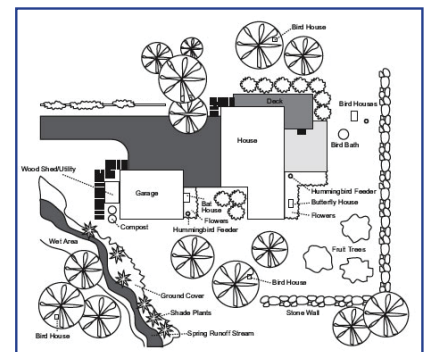
Tumbler bins help you mix the compost easier. These bins are usually a little higher in price than the tumblers but are also readily available at local and on-line retailers.



Step Two -Select your Location

Where you decide to set your compost container should be based on your needs. You will need to be close to a water source and your kitchen. The composting process generates enough heat so placing in direct sun light is not mandatory. In fact, you may find that you will need to add water more frequently if your container is located in a sunny area.

Also, make sure it is in an area that your neighbors will not find offensive.



Charter Township of Plymouth
FACT SHEET
 BACKYARD COMPOSTING



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Step Three - Fill the Container

The best way to make great compost in 5 to 6 months is to follow the recipe to the right using the ingredients and process described below.

The Recipe

- One Part Green
- Two Parts Brown
- One Part Garden Soil/Finished Compost

The Ingredients

One Part Green:



Two Parts Brown:



GREEN	BROWN
Grass Clippings	Fallen Leaves
Fruit and Vegetable Peelings	Garden Wastes/Flowers/stems
Young Weeds (NO SEEDS)	Straw
Coffee Grounds and Filters	Sawdust (small amount)
Clean, Ground Egg Shells	Wood Ash
Fertilizer	Pine Needles
	Hair

The DO NOT Add List

FORBIDDEN
Dairy Products, Oils and Fats
Cooked Food, Bread
Meat, Fish, Bones
Pet Manure, Cat Litter
Black Walnut Leaves
Diseased Plants, Weeds with Seeds
Charcoal and Ashes

The Process

- Assemble yard wastes, both green and brown.
- Mow your leaves; cut yard clippings into small pieces.
- Start with a layer of organic materials such as shredded leaves and grass clippings.
- Water the layer until it is as moist as a wrung-out sponge.
- Add a 2 to 3 inch layer of garden soil or finished compost and mix together.
- Continue layering, watering and mixing.
- Every 2 to 3 weeks mix the compost material to aid air for micro-organisms.
- Check to make sure the compost mixture is moist.
- In 5 to 6 months compost should be ready to use.

