

What to Compost

Greens

- Fresh grass clippings — best used as lawn mulch
- Plant trimmings
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds — separate from the filter
- Manure — only from grass eaters

Browns

- Fallen leaves
- Sawdust
- Straw
- Newspaper — shred into small pieces
- Tissue paper or kraft brown paper

Other materials

- Egg shells — Rinsed and crushed

Unacceptable materials

- Meat, fish and bones
- Grease or fats
- Grains, rice or pasta
- Dairy
- Dog or cat feces
- Kitty litter
- Barbecue ash, coal
- Plastics — includes “compostable” or “biodegradable”

Quick Checklist

- ☒ 2 parts browns, 1 part greens
- ☒ No strong odours
- ☒ Turn often
- ☒ Keep covered
- ☒ Not too wet or dry

Remember:

- Poorly managed compost attracts wildlife.
- Well-managed compost should not smell or draw animals.



Stewardship Pemberton Society



Love this place.
Reduce your waste.



For more information, visit
SLRD.bc.ca/composting

Composting in Bear Country



SQUAMISH - LILLOOET
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Why it matters

Composting keeps food and yard waste out of landfills, reduces emissions, and creates nutrient-rich soil.

You can take organic materials, including fruit and vegetable scraps, to a waste facility for professional composting or compost at home. In bear country, home compost must be managed properly to avoid attracting wildlife.

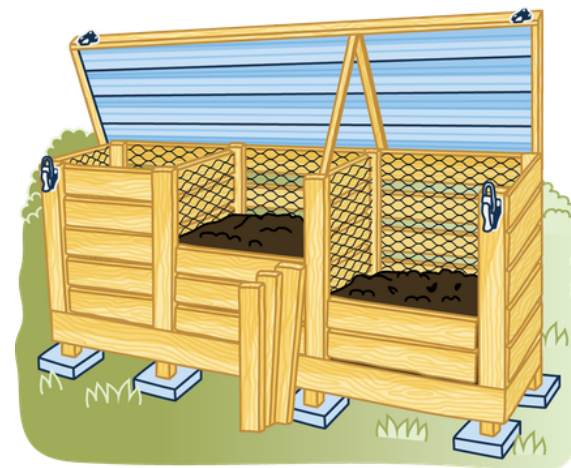
A properly managed compost pile productively breaks down organic waste, doesn't attract animals, and has a pleasant, earthy smell.

Composting methods and containers

There are two main composting methods: container systems and pile systems.

Container systems: Tumblers and steel bins can be wildlife-resistant when designed with locking doors and resistant materials.

Pile systems: Can be built with simple materials such as pallets and wire mesh. Pallets can form three static walls and one removable wall. Wire mesh can be shaped into a tube by fastening it with wire or carabiners and standing it upright. Wire mesh can also be used to line the bottom and sides to keep rodents out.



Steps to Compost Properly

Be Unattractive

1.

- Use secure containers or electric fencing to keep wildlife out.
- Keep a good balance of materials to reduce smells.
- Turn and cover compost regularly.

Go Big on Browns

2.

The key to a healthy compost is a 2:1 ratio of “brown” carbon-rich materials and “green” nitrogen-rich materials. This carbon-to-nitrogen ratio helps the microorganisms break down your compost pile and creates a nutrient-dense, odourless compost. Check out the list of “What to Compost” for a guide on greens and browns!

- Add browns every time you add food scraps (at 2x the volume!). It is best to cover the pile completely in a 4-inch layer of brown materials.
- Fallen leaves are an excellent source of brown materials - stock up in autumn!

Air, Water & Heat

3.

Your compost pile is a living ecosystem that needs the right balance of air, moisture, and heat to thrive. Monitored it regularly to maintain these conditions.

Air: Turn or mix compost often to add oxygen.

Lack of oxygen can cause odours, attract bears, and slow decomposition. Aeration is best done by “flipping” the pile with a pitchfork or using a “Wingdigger” tool to poke holes and mix the pile. Finish by covering the pile with brown material.

Water: Keep compost damp like a wrung-out sponge.

Compost may need watering, especially during hot weather, as dry material slows decomposition. Aim for the moisture level of a wrung-out sponge—moist, but not soggy.

Heat: Hot compost is healthy compost. Turn it to keep it active.

As microorganisms break down organic material, they generate heat. The centre of a healthy pile should feel hot. Compost piles should be turned when the core temperature reaches 55 °C.

Freeze & Bury Fruit

4.

- Chop and freeze large amounts of fruit or other odorous greens.
- Add in small amounts.
- Bury at least 12” (30 cm) to reduce odours, and deter wildlife by speeding up decomposition.

Electric Fencing

A simple electric fence can help keep bears away from fruit trees, compost piles, vegetable gardens, and beehives. Learn more at wildsafebc.com and coasttocascades.org.

With the right practices, you can successfully compost in bear country. If you experience human-wildlife conflict, contact:

Coast to Cascades — Electric fence & bear conflict management programs: info@COASTtoCASCADeS.org.

Wildsafe BC — Electric fencing and attractant management: SLRD@wildsafebc.com

Conservation Officer RAPP line — 1-877-952-7277