

CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY COMPOST SYSTEM

BIN ONE - EAST
BIN TWO - MIDDLE
BIN THREE - WEST

ACTIVE CURRENT COMPOST PILE
USABLE COMPOST
STORAGE FOR BROWN MATERIALS

STEP ONE:

- Put compost materials in the bin to the far left. This is the active compost pile.
- Mix two parts “brown” content with one part “green”. This 2:1 ratio provides the best mix of carbon (browns) and nitrogen (greens).
- **BROWNS** include dry leaves, straw, dry garden waste. Try to avoid seeds being in these materials. If you bring browns from home, they can be stored for future use in the bin to the far right.
- **GREENS** include veggie and fruit scraps from home, egg shells, coffee grounds, green grass clippings (if organic). Healthy garden waste is welcome here if it’s still green.
- Chop or break up browns and greens. Materials will break down more quickly with increased surface area. Half-to-one-inch pieces are best for optimal decomposition in Colorado’s dry air and high altitude.

STEP TWO:

- Keep the compost pile damp, like a wrung-out sponge (not soggy). Here in Colorado, you may have to water the compost pile more often than in humid climates.

STEP THREE:

- Turn the compost occasionally. Compost needs air. Turning it will help it break down and avoid unpleasant odors. In warmer months, compost should be turned every two weeks or so. In the winter, leave the pile undisturbed so it will retain heat.

STEP FOUR:

- At the end of the season, turn BIN ONE contents over into BIN TWO for the winter.

STEP FIVE:

- Use the compost in BIN TWO after it has over-wintered!
- When it is ready, your compost will look like rich, dark soil and smell earthy, like a forest after rain. Use finished compost to feed your garden beds – but please only use this compost if you contributed to its creation! You can apply it as a top dressing, mix it into the first few inches of soil, or mix some compost into the hole made when planting a seedling.

BROWNS AND GREENS – MORE INFO

BROWNS

- **Dry Leaves**
- **Straw, Hay, Dry Grass**
- **Dry Pine Needles**
- **Sawdust (if un-treated w/chemicals)**
- **Napkins, Paper Towels, Tissues (if no toxic chemicals are absorbed)**
- **Wood Chips (small, un-dyed, un-treated w/chemicals)**

GREENS

- **Fruit and Vegetable Scraps**
- **Coffee Grounds and Filters (preferably unbleached)**
- **Eggshells**
- **Fresh Grass Clippings (if untreated w/chemicals)**
- **Freshly Fallen Leaves**
- **Loose Leaf Tea (no tea bags)**

DO NOT COMPOST!

- **Meat, Fish, Bones**
- **Oily Foods**
- **Eggs**
- **Cheese, Yogurt, Other Dairy**
- **Compostable Service-ware & Grocery Bags (need more heat than they will get here)**
- **Compostable Grocery bags**
- **No Pet Waste, Vacuum Waste, Dryer Lint**

Questions? Contact the Garden Manager.