## **How to Use Your Compost**



Incorporate your finished compost into new planting areas to support plant establishment and growth.



Sprinkle compost on the surface of existing soil to rejuvenate lawns or garden beds.



Spread a layer of compost around the base of plants to suppress weeds, regulate soil temperature, and retain moisture.



Blend your finished compost with potting soil to create a nutrient-rich mix for indoor and outdoor potted plants.

# **At-Home Composting Kits**

Join us for quarterly composting workshops hosted by CR&R throughout the year. Residents can take advantage of exclusive discounts—25% off retail prices—on at-home composting kits available at these workshops. Please visit the City of Laguna Beach's website at <a href="www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling">www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling</a> for more information on upcoming CR&R compost workshops.



If you have any questions regarding your at-home composting program or general questions regarding your CR&R services, please contact Laguna Beach's dedicated customer service line at 949.662.3819 or email LagunaBeach-Recycles@crrmail.com.

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From Kitchen to Garden:

# **Composting Guide**





A guide to composting at home or at a community garden



# What is Composting?

### **Benefits of Composting**

Composting is a natural process that transforms organic materials such as food scraps, yard waste, and other biodegradable materials into nutrient-rich soil.



Oxygen allows organisms to survive and keep the pile odor-free, while water enables organisms to move around and digest the organic material.

### **Compost Materials**

### **Greens** (Nitrogen)



**Grass Clippings** 



**Green Leaves** 



**Flowers** 



Coffee Grounds/Tea Bags (no nylon bags)



Fruit/Vegetable Scraps



Egg Shells (shell only)

### **Browns** (Carbon)



Wood Chips/Sawdust (from untreated wood)



Twigs



Dry Leaves (Brown leaf)



Shredded Paper

### **DO NOT INCLUDE**

Diseased or infected plants, meat or fish , pet feces and litter, charcoal ash, fats, oils, and grease, dairy.

- Prevents greenhouse gas emissions
- Improves soil quality and plant growth
- Reduces soil erosion
- Reduces run-off of fertilizer and pesticides into storm drains

## **How to Compost**

STEP 1: Select a Compost Bin
Compost Tumbler, Wooden and Pallet Bins,
Covered Piles, and Worm Bins.



**STEP 2: Collect Your Food Scraps and Yard Trimmings**Compile your food scraps and yard trimmings in a bin or box that allows drainage.



STEP 3: Layer Your Materials (Browns and Greens)
Deposit alternate layers of your browns and greens.



**STEP 4: Add Water to Keep Materials Moist** Water allows organisms to digest the materials.



STEP 5: Patience
Composting takes time!



STEP 6: Use Your Finished Compost
When your compost has turned into a dark and
earthy-smelling material, your compost is ready to use!

