

**You will need:**

- 18 gal or larger plastic tote (can be a new tote or an old broken tote) with lid
- Drill with 1/4" drill bit
- Yard and food scraps

**Optional:** Worms!



**Directions:**

1. Drill holes about 1-2" apart all over the sides, top and bottom of your tote. This will provide the aeration needed for the composting process.
2. Place bin in a spot that is not in direct sun all day. If it gets too much sun, it will dry out your compost and slow the process.



Step 1

3. Add your yard waste and kitchen scraps. Do NOT add any meat/meat products, dairy products or animal waste to your compost.  
Hint: The smaller the pieces of waste, the faster the process!



Step 2

4. Turn the compost at least 1-2x/week by shaking the bin or stirring with a shovel.
5. Keep your compost moist. If too dry just add a little water. If too wet add dry leaves, shredded newspaper or sawdust to soak up some of the water.



Step 3

Option 1: Put a lid under the bin to catch the fertilizer "tea" to add to your garden.

6. Keep adding waste and mixing and you should have usable compost in 3-6 months.

Option 2: Add worms! You can either catch local earthworms or buy some red wigglers from a bait shop. You may want to mix by hand rather than a shovel so you don't hurt your worms. Happy composting!!!

**You will need:**

- Loose-leaf paper
- Banana peel
- Cotton t-shirt
- Wool sock
- Paper plate
- Plastic garbage bag
- Painted wood
- Plastic film container
- Nylon fabric
- Rubber boot sole
- Tin can
- Plastic cup
- Aluminum can
- Plastic six-pack holder
- Glass bottle
- Plastic bottles

**Substitution:** Use a picture for each

**Directions:**

1. Arrange the items according to the speed of decomposition (going from fastest to slowest decomposition rate).
2. Discuss as a group why they made the decisions they did. Using your key, one by one arrange the items in the appropriate order (if they were out of order) and discuss with them why this is the correct order.

*(Adapted with permission from the DSNY Recycling Curriculum)*

## How long does it take to breakdown?



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