

Simple guidelines to composting

**Composting is a biological process and needs:
Food, air, water and time**

The minimum pile size: 3' X 3' X 3'

This is necessary to retain heat produced by the microorganisms

Starting Carbon/Nitrogen (C/N): 30/1

<http://www.klickitatcounty.org/solidwaste/fileshtml/organics/compostCalc.htm>

Or, 4-5 parts of brown to 1 part of green

Particle size of compostables: <2" and >.5"

Air: Turn → Porosity

Moisture by Feel (water): Ideal moisture content 40-60%

Take handful of material. Squeeze firmly

Water escapes: > 60 %

Shiny ball: 55% - 60 %

Ball remains when tapped: 50 - 55 %

Ball falls apart when tapped: 45 - 50 %

No ball forms: 40 - 45 %

Unless hand feels powdery dry: < 40 %

Temperature: > 131°F and < 163°F

Use Temp/Turn chart and thermometer

The compost is finished when:

No plant material visible, dark earth like appearance

It stains the hands black

Has a pleasant, earthy odor

C/N is < 20/1