

# Organic Recycling



Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.

**What is Garbage?**  
**What is Compost?**

# What are the Benefits of Compost?



- **Helps garden & house plants** by improving the fertility and health of your soil.



- **Benefits the environment** by recovering valuable organic resources from landfills.



- **Saves water** by helping the soil hold moisture – reducing water runoff and reduces the need for pesticides and herbicides.



- **Gives your garden "Super Powers."** Compost helps plant roots to penetrate and absorb needed nutrients.

## Do Compost:

### Browns:

- Most sawdust
- Chopped, woody prunings
- Pine needles
- Fallen leaves
- Shredded paper
- Paper napkins/towels

### Greens:

- Tea bags
- Liquids
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Lawn clippings & young weeds
- Fruit & vegetable trimmings
- Herbivore manures



## Don't Compost:

### "These items are difficult to compost"

- Meat, bones or fish
- Dairy products or grease
- Grains, beans or breads

### "Can be hazardous in your compost"

- Dog, cat or bird feces
- Sawdust from plywood or treated wood
- Diseased plants (in cold piles)
- Fruit & veggie trimmings (in open piles/simple bins)

## Facilities In Your Area That Accept Yard Trimmings and/or Wood Waste



### Josephine County

#### **Southern Oregon Sanitation**

1381 Redwood Ave., Grants Pass  
Yard trimmings and wood waste are accepted at the Grants Pass location only. Some restrictions apply.

#### **Grants Pass Jo-Co Compost**

1749 Merlin Road, Grants Pass  
Yard trimmings and wood waste are accepted. Some restrictions apply.

#### **Southern Oregon Compost**

5863 Lower River Road, Grants Pass  
Yard trimmings and wood waste are accepted. Some restrictions apply. Compost is available for purchase.

### Jackson County

#### **Hilton Landscape Supply**

8087 Blackwell Road, Central Point  
Yard trimmings and wood waste are accepted. Some restrictions apply. Compost is available for purchase.

#### **Rogue Compost**

8001 Table Rock Road, White City  
Yard trimmings and wood waste are accepted. Some restrictions apply. Compost is available for purchase.

### Douglas County

#### **Douglas County Transfer Site**

329 Scholfield Road. 2 miles east of Reedsport off Hwy 38  
Wood waste is accepted - some restrictions apply.

**Compost is also available in bags that are sold in your local Home Improvement and Garden Centers.**

# Basic Ways To Compost



## "NO-FUSS" COMPOST

Harvest time - 12 to 18 months.

**For Yard Trimmings ONLY**, requires a rodent resistant bin to prevent animal nesting.

**Harvest:** rich, brown, finished compost from the bottom and center of the pile.



## "MIXED" COMPOST

Harvest time - 3 to 8 months.

**For Fruit, Vegetable and Yard Trimmings**, requires a rodent resistant bin and active maintenance to prevent animal nesting.

**Harvest:** rich, brown, finished compost by sifting out coarse, unfinished materials.



## "ACTIVE" COMPOST

Harvest time - 3 to 8 months.

**For Yard Trimmings ONLY**, in open piles and simple bins, active maintenance prevents animal nesting.

**Harvest:** rich, brown, finished compost by sifting out coarse, unfinished materials after 3 to 8 months.

## Follow The Basics

- 1. CHOP** materials if you want them to break down more quickly.
- 2. MIX** browns carbon material (*woody*) with green, nitrogen (*moist materials*).
- 3. MAINTAIN** air & water balance by keeping compost slightly moist.



## Heat Helps Compost!

Heat accelerates composting and helps to kill weed seeds and plant diseases. Turn it occasionally and mix in some greens like grass clippings or an organic nitrogen fertilizer.



**Compost is nature's way of decaying organic matter. It becomes a natural soil additive that feeds the soil nutrients as an alternative to chemical fertilizers.**

### **SYSTEMS FOR ONLY YARD TRIMMINGS**



#### ***Open Piles & Simple Bins***

- For yard trimmings ONLY
- Usually inexpensive or free
- Open piles and bins can be left for "natural" composting in areas with lots of space

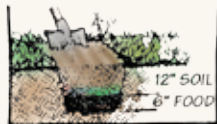
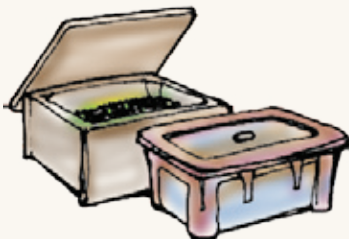
### **SYSTEMS FOR FOOD & YARD TRIMMINGS**



#### ***Rodent-Resistant Bins***

- For food & yard trimmings (using "Mixed" compost recipe)
- For yard trimmings alone (using "No-Fuss" compost recipe)
- Bins require a lid, no holes bigger than 1/4 inch and hardware cloth or other "floor" materials to prevent pests

### **SYSTEMS FOR FOOD ONLY TRIMMINGS**



#### ***Worm Bins***

- Most fun! Takes some time & effort
- For indoors or outdoors
- Produces excellent fertilizer
- **Underground Composting:** Requires digging a hole each time you add new materials

**TIP:** To test compost for the right amount of moisture, grab a handful and squeeze very tightly. A few drops of moisture should be visible. If water pours out too easily, the compost is too wet. If no drops are visible, compost is too dry.

# The 4 “R’s” of the Yard

**REDUCE** the amount of yard trimmings by planting slow-growing, drought-tolerant plants.

**REUSE** yard trimmings by mowing more often and leaving the clippings on the lawn. Mulch fallen leaves and chipped prunings and spread them 6” deep on paths and around trees and shrubs.

**RECYCLE** remaining yard trimmings by composting. This helps moisture control for sandy soils and soils with high clay content.

**RESTORE** the environment with thriving gardens. It all starts at home!



## Organic Materials Management and Climate Change

- Each year around 30 percent of compostable organic materials end up in the landfill.
- Landfills have been identified a source of Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the anaerobic decomposition of organic wastes.
- Reducing the amount of organic materials sent to landfills and increasing the production of compost and mulch offers a path to sustainability.



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[www.sosanitation.com](http://www.sosanitation.com)