

COMPOSTING GUIDE – Brown and Green Materials

Browns (Carbon materials) - 50%	Greens (Nitrogen materials) - 50%	Avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dried, brown leaves and grass • Twigs and small branches • Chopped woody stalks of plants such as sunflower and corn • Sawdust (not too much, or add more eggshells to balance acidity) • Shredded newsprint • Dryer lint • Chopped straw • Nut shells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen scraps – any fruit and vegetable matter • Fresh grass clippings (not in clumps) • Fresh weeds that haven't gone to seed • Used coffee grinds, filters, and tea bags • Pet and human hair (not in clumps) • Eggshells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy products or meat • Oils or oily food • Weeds gone to seed • Diseased plants • Pet wastes

Steps to creating great compost:

1. Add 50/50 brown and green materials – the more cut up, the faster it will decompose. Layer browns and greens
2. Add some soil between layers to jump-start the process
3. Add water until the pile is moist, but not soaking
4. Occasionally turn the pile – this will allow air into the mixture, which microorganisms need to survive. The more often you turn it, the faster the process will go. About three times per month is good.

Source: Goorganicgardening.com