

Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Item	Qty	Total
Composter \$135.00		
Grand Total		



(815) 756-3237 Ext. 3

Composter can be picked up at the
DeKalb County SWCD
1350 W. Prairie Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178

On April 23, 2010
From 1-5 p.m.

If this date does not work you can make other
arrangements by calling our office.

DeKalb County SWCD
1350 West Prairie Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178



COMPOSTERS



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on April 23rd from 1-5 p.m. Other
arrangements can be made if you are
unable to pick them up on this date by
calling our office at (815) 756-3237 Ext. 3

DeKalb County
Soil and Water Conservation District
1350 West Prairie Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178
www.dekalbilsacd.org

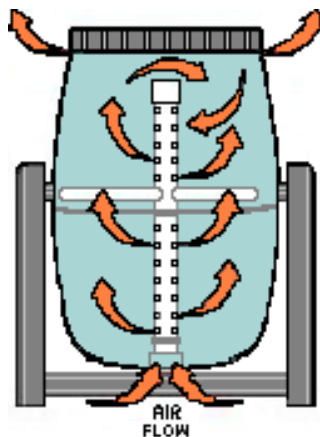
Advantages of Compost Bins:

Free standing compost heaps are fine in many situations but if you have little room or want to make good-quality compost quickly, a compost bin is the best way forward.

There are several reasons that make a compost bin very effective in composting waste:

- They keep in the warmth created by decomposition process speeding up the composting process.
- The amount of water contained in the compost can be controlled more easily. Water the compost bin when the compost becomes dry, cover it with a lid when conditions are wet.
- The compost is kept moist right up to the edges which speeds up the composting process.
- Small amounts of compost will decompose much quicker in a compost bin.
- A compost bin keeps the compost enclosed, detouring wild & domestic animals from disturbing the process. Bees and wasps sometimes favor open compost heaps for nesting, in comparison to a bin.
- Keeps compost neatly enclosed, well-suited for residential areas.

The DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District is selling a drum/tumbler bin. With the drum/tumbler system it's possible to maintain relatively high temperatures, both because the container acts as insulation and because the turning keeps the microbes aerated and active. An interior "paddle" aids aeration and prevents clumping of the composting materials. This greatly speeds up the composting process.



Carbon/Nitrogen Ratio

All compostable materials are either carbon or nitrogen-based. The secret to a healthy compost is simple: maintain a working balance between these two elements.

Carbon-carbon-rich matter (like branches, stems, dried leaves, peels, bits of wood, bark dust or sawdust, shredded brown paper bags, coffee filters, egg shells, straw, peat moss, small amounts of wood ash) gives compost its light, fluffy body.

Nitrogen-nitrogen or protein-rich matter (manures, food scraps, leafy materials like lawn clippings and green leaves) provides raw materials for making enzymes.

A healthy compost should have more carbon (brown) than nitrogen (green). A simple rule of thumb is to use one-third green and two-thirds brown materials. This allows oxygen to penetrate and nourish the organisms that reside there. Too much nitrogen makes for a heavy, smelly, slowly decomposing mass. Good composting hygiene means covering fresh nitrogen-rich material, which can release odors if exposed to open air, with carbon-rich material, which often exudes a fresh, wonderful smell. If in doubt add more carbon!

Browns: (carbon)

Leaves
Hay & straw
Paper & cardboard
Woody prunings (1/4 inch or smaller)
Eggshells (best crushed)
Coffee grounds
Tea bags
Sawdust

Greens: (nitrogen)

Vegetable peelings
Fruit peelings
Grass Clippings
Fresh manure
Green plant cuttings
Young hedge trimmings
Table Scraps
Chicken manure (excellent compost activator)

What not to add to your compost!

There are a number of materials that you should keep out of your compost. Adding some items, like vegetable fats and dairy products will simply slow down the composting process by excluding the oxygen that helpful organisms need to do their job. If you add these materials you will still have usable compost, it will just take much longer. Adding other materials to your pile is simply dangerous because of the chance of poisoning or disease. Human or pet feces, chemically or pressure treated wood or sawdust, and meat and animal fats fall into this category and should never be added to your compost.

Don't add:

- Meat & bones
- Poultry & fish
- Fatty food waste
- Whole eggs
- Dairy products
- Human & pet feces
- Pernicious weeds
- Treated wood

