



**Denver Compost Collective, LLC.**

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## **Quick & Dirty: HOW TO BUILD A COMPOST PILE**

## Placement of the pile:

3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet (at minimum), with plenty of space to move around it. Semi-sunny spot is ideal but not necessary.

## Recipe:

- 2 parts chopped "Browns" & 1 part chopped "Greens"...
- Build an 8" layer, then "mix the salad" & water
- Sprinkle of soil
- Repeat until 3 feet tall (at least)
- Cover with black plastic (with holes), an old tarp or some other material to help keep moisture in

## Maintenance:

- "Mix the salad" every 1-2 weeks, maintain moisture by watering
- Should get very hot (140-145 degrees, hot to the touch!) within 1-2 weeks... and will then cool down somewhat after a few days.
- Re-mixing the pile every 1-2 weeks will add oxygen for the bacteria and they will re-heat the pile again (this is good!). After about 3 or 4 rounds of this, over an 8 week period or so, pile will no longer heat up very hot (will stay just about 90-110 degrees, warm to the touch). Active processing phase is complete!

## Let it Cool..

Allow compost to cool down, or "cure". Otherwise will be too intense for plants. This process takes about 3-4 weeks.

## Use it!

- Add 2" of finished compost anywhere you want plants to thrive!
- Till the finished compost down a few inches into the soil, so sun doesn't degrade it and so roots can directly access it.
- Job well done!

**Problems/Questions?** Or want to know more about Denver Compost Collective?

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