Why compost?

Food and lawn waste makes up 25% of all waste in landfills. Although these natural materials are biodegradable, they do not break down properly in landfills, which are so densely packed that oxygen isn't readily available. When oxygen is withheld during the decomposition process, the organic matter may emit methane gas, which is 20 times more toxic that carbon dioxide. Each ton of organic matter that is diverted from the landfill can save 1/3 of a ton of greenhouse gases from being emitted into the environment. Plus, composting can provide you with your very own "black gold" for free, allowing you to condition and enrich your soil.

Set up your bin.

There are many types of containers, but you don't need a container to compost. Containers can help speed the decomposition process by controlling temperature and moisture and keep your compost scraps out of sight. All compost heaps, contained of not, should be approximately 3x3 to really be most effective. A DIY garbage can compost bin is easy and affordable. Purchase a large plastic or rubber trashcan with a secure-fitting lid. Use a drill to bore 5-6 holes each in the lid, the sides, and bottom of the can to provide airflow that will be essential to breaking down the organic materials placed inside it. You can use a small, medium or large size can, depending on your needs and space available.

Add to your bin:

Now that you have your bin and your tools, it's time to compost! The most important thing is to add the right materials and avoid the wrong ones. Even if all you do is throw your kitchen scraps into your compost bin, you're still doing OK—your scraps will break down eventually, even if you never turn it, water it, aerate it, or "balance" its contents. As a general guide, if it came from a plant, you can compost it.

What to Compost

Grass and lawn clippings
Fruit and vegetable peels, rinds and scraps
Coffee grounds
Hay and Straw
Tea bags
Eggshells
Leaves
Dryer lint
Garden waste
Shredded paper
Wood chips and sawdust (from untreated wood)
Weeds that have not seeded

What NOT to Compost

Large chunks of compostable materials
Chemically treated wood
Pet or Human waste
Pernicious weeds
Diseased plants
Meat
Lime
Dairy products
Animal bones
Fats and oils
Cooked food
Peanut butter
Animal food products
Glossy paper or Paper with colored ink

Now you wait:

If you do nothing from this point, you will probably have finished compost in approximately one year. Most people try to nudge Mother Nature into a speedier delivery by keeping a healthy amount of moisture (water) and air flowing within the pile. Using an aerator or pitchfork to turn your pile, anywhere from once a week to a couple times per month, will help reintroduce oxygen. The more often you turn, the quicker it will break down. Weekly aerating and watering should produce a finished compost heap in several months. Finished compost smells earthy, even sweet, is moist like a wrung out sponge, and is dark like coffee grounds. Use this material in your garden, planters, and as mulch.

Compost.

CLEAN SWEEP

Saturday, May 12th, 2018

9:00—12:00

Junction City Public Works Yard

1395 Elm Street

Junction City, OR 97448

Bring your unbagged residential yard debris down to Public Works and we will accept it for **FREE**!

We will only be accepting yard debris materials. This includes items like trimmings, prunings, limbs, bushes, plants, and grass clippings.

We will not accept furniture, metal, rocks, roofing materials, construction debris, or bagged yard debris.