
LETS GET COMPOSTING!

— A Fun Activity for Families —

What is Composting?

Fun Fact: Hundreds of thousands of tons of compost is made on Long Island every year!

Compost is the result of the natural breakdown of organic material by bacteria, fungi, insects and animals which live in soil.

As the materials break down waste they generate heat, which is why compost heaps often feel warm and can sometimes even be seen steaming in cold weather!

Once the materials have broken down they turn into humus-- an important element of rich, fertile soil that will make healthy plants.

What can I use?



WHAT TO USE!

Garden waste including leaves,
grass cuttings, old flowers
Egg shells
Fruit & vegetable peelings
Tea bags
Shredded paper and cardboard
including cereal and egg cartons
Animal bones & leftover fish



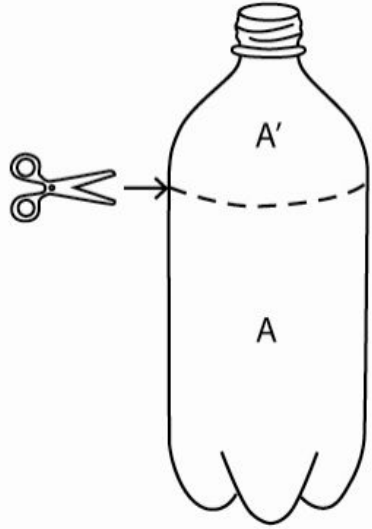
WHAT NOT TO USE!

Non-Food Products
Plastic
Metal
Glass
Grease
Chemicals
Dog or cat waste

Activity Time! Lets make a bottle composter

1. Rinse out a 2 litre bottle, screw the top on tightly and remove the label.
2. Make a flip top by cutting one third of the way around the bottle. Don't cut all the way around! You can start cutting where the top of the label would have been.
3. Place a layer of soil on the bottom of the bottle and moisten by spraying.
4. Add a thin layer of food scraps, a thin layer of dirt and a layer of leaves.
5. Repeat that process until the bottle is almost full. Feel free to add some backyard work friends or forest duff if you like!
6. Tape the top of the bottle shut. If you see condensation, open the bottle up. If it looks dry, give it a little spray.
7. Roll the bottle around every day to mix it. In about a month you'll have beautiful brown, crumbly compost! You did it!

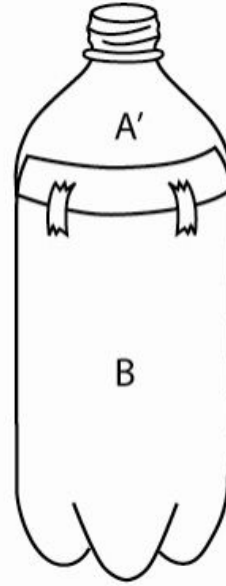
INSTRUCTIONS IN PHOTOS



Cut a clean bottle one third of the way around.



Fill your bottle as noted in the written directions.



Tape the bottle shut & find a sunny spot.



Now you have a bottle composter!