

Where can I get my own composter?



The City of Lethbridge sells composters for under \$50. Either drop by the fourth floor of City Hall, or call the Waste & Recycling Department to order one. They'll even drop it off at your house for you!

They even have kitchen catchers and compost turners for sale - to make composting as easy as possible.



Or ... make your own!

There are tons of online tutorials on how to make a DIY composter at home!



Out of a wooden crate



Or a garbage bin



Or a barrel

What can go in a backyard composter?

Can

GREEN MATERIAL
(source of nitrogen)

Vegetable and fruit scraps and peelings

Tea leaves, bags, coffee grounds

Green leaves, lawn clippings

Egg shells

BROWN MATERIAL
(source of carbon)

Dry, brown leaves

Shredded paper, cardboard scraps, paper towels/napkins

Straw, small twigs

Can't

Meat, fish, bones, dairy, fats and oils

Glass, plastic or other materials that won't decompose

Weeds that have already gone to seed

Pet waste/cat litter

Toxic materials

Tip!

It's important to keep a good balance between green and brown material. If you find your compost is too wet - add more brown. Too dry? Add more green.

How should I take care of my backyard composter?

Pay attention to these three factors and your compost should work just fine! If in doubt, there are plenty of online resources, or contact Environment Lethbridge for help !

Air

It's important that the microbes in your pile have enough oxygen to break down material. Make sure you are turning your compost pile regularly by using a shovel or pitchfork to move material from the bottom to the top and aerate the material.

Moisture

Just like air, microbes need the right amount of water to do their work. Your pile just be slightly damp to the touch. If you find it too dry, sprinkle some water over with a hose. If too wet, add in more brown material and ensure your pile is covered from rain.

Content

Take good care of your compost by watching what you put in and avoiding unwanted materials. Keep a balance (about half and half) of brown and green material to keep your compost healthy.