

# HOME COMPOSTING MATERIALS



## COMPOST



**COMPOST TIP**

Chopping or shredding these items helps speed up the composting process.

For best results, composters can mix in 2 to 3 volumes of "brown" material with each volume of "green" material.

### Carbon-Rich "Browns"

#### Brown leaves & yard waste

- Brush & twigs (1/2" in diameter or less)
- Cardboard (dry and clean)
- Egg cartons (shredded)
- Newspaper
- Nuts & nut shells (but **not** black walnuts)
- Paper towels
- Pine cones & pine needles
- Sawdust & shavings (from non-treated wood)
- Straw & hay
- Wood chips

### Nitrogen-Rich "Greens"

#### Green leaves & yard waste

- Coffee beans, grounds & used filters
- Dirt & potting soil
- Egg shells
- Flowers & yard plants
- Fruit, including cores & rinds
- Grass clippings
- Gourds & pumpkins
- Melons and melon rinds
- Tea leaves & tea bags
- Vegetables, greens & legumes



## NOT FOR COMPOST



### Not for Home Composting

- Biodegradable forks, spoons & knives
- Branches or logs more than 6" in diameter
- Charcoal briquettes or briquette ash
- Cigar & cigarette ashes
- Coffee or beverage cups
- Diapers
- Dairy products (butter, milk, cheese, etc.)
- Invasive weeds and plants
- Meat (cooked or raw) & bones
- Oils, greases & fats (including snack chips)
- Pet food
- Pet or human waste
- Pizza boxes with grease or cheese on them
- Recyclables (glass, plastic, metal cans, etc.)
- Sawdust from treated wood
- Trash (wrappers, packaging, etc.)
- Used take-out containers & Styrofoam shells
- Wood treated with varnish or paint

For more, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) & search "compost," or consult other DNR publications, *Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits* & *Home Composting: The Basic Composter*.