

## Which materials can be used?

Brown input material group:  
Straw, woodchips, dry materials

Green input material group:  
Leaves, grasses, crop residuals, waste fruit  
!!! No municipal waste, slurry or meat !!!

Manure input material group:  
Cow, chicken, horse manure  
!!! No pig manure !!!

Conditioning input material group:  
Old compost, clay, trace elements, minerals,  
suitable aerobe microbes

## At which ratio should be the material groups used?

Brown/dry materials: 40%  
Manures materials: 20%

Green/fresh materials: 30%  
Conditioning materials: 10%

## How to build a compost pile?

Always start with the lightest/roughest material followed by green/fresh material and manure last. Always put heaviest/wettest last. Repeat this sequence until a height of about 1.25-1.5 meters is reached.

The compost pile should have a ground width of 2-3 meters and a length of at least 4 meters. Add about 50 litres of water per 1m<sup>3</sup> of input material. Add the water in between the layers while building the pile.

If available, apply the compost starter 1-2 times in between the layers.

Compact the pile 2-3 times while building it enjoying the "compost dance."

When the pile is finished cover it with straw, banana or palm leaves or a breathing fabric.

!!! Don't use plastic !!!

## When to turn?

Turn the compost pile as soon the core temperate reached and stayed at about 60-70°C for 3 days. In case no thermometer is available a core temperature of 60-70°C can be verified by testing the core temperature with 2 fingers. If it's too hot to keep the fingers longer than 2 seconds, the temperature is around 60-70°C. Turn again after about 2 weeks and a third time after 6 weeks.

The turning should be done in a way that the upper part of the windrow is turned the lower part and the inside out.

## When is the compost finished?

The compost is finished when the core temperature reached ambient temperature and when the "water-cress" test results positive. A positive water-cress test means that water cress or a comparable other sensitive plant grows nicely in a compost sample without turning yellow and no other weeds grow. This indicated that the weed seeds were destroyed and no volatile gases are present anymore which would cause a yellow coloration of the water cress leaves.