

COMPOSTING is easier than you think...

Whether you're just starting or fine-tuning your technique, the Municipality of Chester can help you with three types of composting:

GREEN CART COMPOSTING	BACKYARD COMPOSTING	VERMI-COMPOSTING
<p>The compostable material you put in your green cart for collection helps create a valuable resource.</p> <p>Once your material is emptied into the truck, it's taken to Northridge Farms where it cures in one of their buildings on-site. From there, it's piled in outdoor rows or "windrows" to continue decomposing until it's ready to use.</p> <p>All decomposable material and soiled paper products can go in your green cart. Some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food scraps like chicken skin, apple cores, corn cobs, tea bags, coffee grinds, etc.• Bones from cooked or uncooked meat, chicken or fish• Dairy products like rotten cheese• Yard waste like clippings and leaves• Soiled paper like napkins, coffee cups or boxboard with bacon grease on it.	<p>Backyard Composting is the natural decomposition of organic material, either in a contained are or an open pile, resulting in a nutrient-rich soil amendment.</p> <p>If you want to try your hand at backyard composting, we have ready-to-go composters for sale (at cost) as well as plans to build your own. We also have resource material available.</p> <p>You need four things for a successful compost pile.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) "Greens" (nitrogen) like raw vegetable and fruit peelings, coffee grounds, weeds and clippings.2) "Browns" (carbon) like hay and leaves.3) Moisture – your compost should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge.4) Air – the micro-organisms that eat your food and turn it into compost need air to live and thrive.	<p>Vermi-composting is composting with special worms – RED WIGGLERS! You give them room and board and they give you "black gold".</p> <p>Keeping them happy is easy. They need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A home (plastic or wooden bin) with plenty of air holes in the sides and lid. Also in the bottom for drainage, so you'll want a tray under the bin.• Bedding, such as shredded newspaper softened in water or a mixture of sawdust, peat, shredded leaves, and soil. Keep the bedding as damp as a wrung-out sponge.• Food – they like the same things as you would put in your backyard composter: fruits and vegetables, coffee ground, a few leaves, etc.