

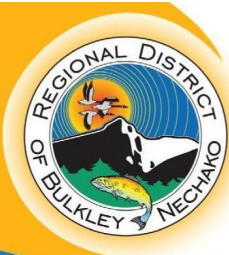
Compost Troubleshooting

Problem: Compost smells bad

Reason	Try This
Too much food.	Stop adding food for a few days. In the meantime, keeps food scraps in the freezer.
Not enough air.	Gently stir the contents of the bin.
Too moist.	Make sure the bin has proper drainage. Clear the drainage holes or drill more holes.
Too many acidic foods (citrus, coffee grounds).	Cut back on adding acidic foods. Try adding some dolomite lime or ground eggshells.

Problem: Fruit flies are attracted to the compost

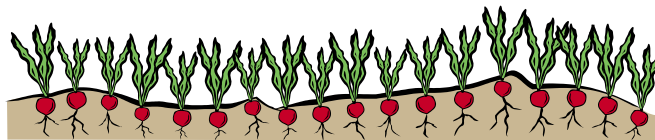
Reason	Try This
The food is exposed.	Make sure to bury the food. Cover the bin with a lid, plastic sheet, or sacking.
Too much food.	Do not overload the bin. If the fly problem continues, move the bin to a rarely used space.



REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

How to Use your Compost

- Use it in your garden. Mixing soil compost with soil helps to improve its texture, increase nutrient levels and improve water holding capacity.
- Use it as top dressing. Spread compost to a depth of 8 cm around the base of shrubs, trees and perennials.
- Use it to feed your lawn. Hand cast or rake a layer of sifted compost over the surface of the lawn to a depth of 1/2 cm.
- Use it to make potting soil. Mix equal parts of sifted compost, soil and vermiculite.
- Use the liquid that runs into the tray under your bin as a plant fertilizer. Dilute it by using 1 part liquid to 10 parts water.



Vermicomposting Guide

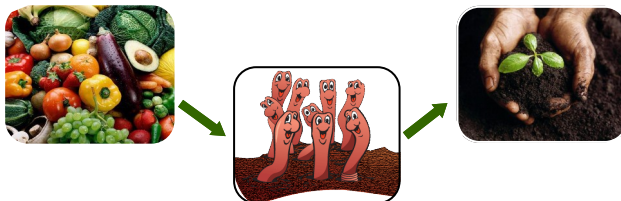


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What is Vermicomposting?

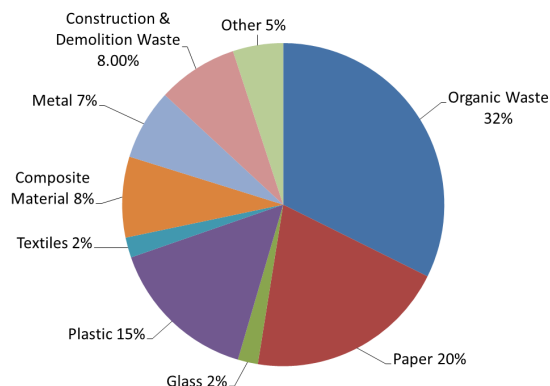
Vermicomposting is the process of using worms to break down organic waste material (fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves, grass clippings) into a rich soil-like product called humus. It can be done year-round, indoors or outdoors in apartments, houses, offices and schools.



Why Compost?

- Over 25% of the household waste sent to the landfill is organic matter, which can be composted. Composting is a great way to minimize waste and save landfill space.
- Composting is good for the garden. It produces a rich natural soil supplement that improves plant growth and reduces soil erosion.
- Composting is easy and inexpensive. All you need is a little bit of space, a bin and a basic understanding of the composting process.

Household Waste Composition in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako



You will need:

- **A container (worm bin)**
You can purchase a specially-designed worm composting container, or use a standard 53 L plastic storage bin.
- **Bedding**
Worms require a habitat as well as food. Ideal bedding materials include shredded cardboard, Shredded newspaper, or fall leaves.
- **Waste material**
This refers to organic food waste materials, or worm food.
- **Composting worms**
The kind of worms typically used for composting are called Red Wigglers. You can get worms from a friend's compost bin, purchase them, or collect them from an older manure pile.

Instructions

1. Start by making sure your bin allows for sufficient air flow and drainage. Drill about 10 holes approximately 5 cm apart in the bottom of the container. You may need to drill additional holes if the bin contents become too wet.
2. Place a tray under the bin to catch excess fluid. Raise the bin up from the tray by using bricks or blocks of wood. If your bin is indoors, drill holes in the lid. If the bin is outdoors, keep the lid solid and secured to keep pests and rain out.
3. Fill your bin about half full with a variety of bedding, and a bit of sand and soil.
4. Add water to the bedding so that the moisture content is like that of a wrung out dish cloth. Lift the bedding gently in some places to create air pockets.
5. Add the worms.
6. Add food scraps by pulling aside a bit of bedding and dumping in the scraps, then covering it with bedding.
7. Over time, bury small amounts of food scraps in different areas of the bin.
8. In 1–3 months, your compost will be ready to use!

What Can I Compost?

Green (nitrogen-rich) Material	Brown (carbon-rich) Material
Fruit and vegetable scraps	Dried leaves
Coffee grounds and tea leaves	Straw
Disease-free plant remains	Woody brush (small pieces)
Old flowers	Shredded newspaper, paper towels and paper bags

Other Items: Egg shells, (rinse and crush)

Unacceptable Material

- × Grease, cooked food including rice, pasta, oils
- × Fish, meat, bones
- × Dog or cat feces
- × Kitty litter
- × Barbeque ash or coals
- × Roots of perennial weeds

These items attract rodents and pests, cause odour problems, and may contain chemicals or disease organisms.

Tips

- The smaller the food is chopped or shredded, the faster the composting process will be.
- Certain foods such as nut shells, orange peels and banana peels take a long time for the worms to digest, so use these sparingly.
- Overfeeding can cause the compost to be too wet, which might lead to unpleasant odours.
- The ideal temperature for your vermicomposter is 13–25°C. The temperature must not fall below 5°C or rise above 28°C.
- Keep the bin out of direct sunlight. If your bin is outside and temperatures are low, bring it inside.