

ORGANIC WASTE

What is organic waste?

Organic waste is any material that is biodegradable and comes from either a plant or an animal. About 30% of what we usually throw away is actually organics, including food scraps and food-soiled paper products.

How does the waste turn into compost?

All composting requires three basic ingredients:

- Browns - This includes materials such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs.
- Greens - This includes materials such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds.
- Water - Having the right amount of water, greens, and browns is important for compost development.



Figure 2: Natural compost; source: [Marlohydroponics](#)



Figure 1: Composting; source: [Pinterest](#)

The microorganisms in the Browns eat the organic waste, breaking it down into its simplest components. The humus (finished compost) they produce is rich with fiber and inorganic nutrients, such as phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen, and it makes a natural fertilizer that is beneficial to the environment. If you regularly water and turn the compost in your compost bin or pile, the compost can completely decompose in just two to three weeks.

What can we use the compost for?

Compost is the single most important supplement you can give your garden. It's a simple way to add nutrient-rich humus to your lawn or garden that fuels plant growth and restores vitality to depleted soil. It's also free, easy to make, and good for the environment.

Compost:

- Enriches soil, helping retain moisture and

suppress plant diseases and pests.

- Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Encourages the production of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create humus, a rich nutrient-filled material.
- Reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.

You can plant seeds and seedlings in it, nourish established houseplants, spread it in your garden (you should create an urban garden, if you don't have one), dig it into garden beds or plant it directly in it.

SOURCES:

- [Earth Easy](#)
- [EPA](#)