Trouble Shooting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compost has a bad odour</td>
<td>Not enough air or too wet</td>
<td>Stir your pile and add in some extra BROWN material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compost pile will not heat up</td>
<td>Too wet or not enough material</td>
<td>If the weather is rainy cover your pile and add more materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compost pile is attracting pests</td>
<td>Improper food trimmings added or food not covered</td>
<td>Line your bin with a fine mesh wiring to deter rodents. To avoid flies, make sure fresh food scraps are buried into the pile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process is too slow</td>
<td>Materials are too big or not enough microorganisms</td>
<td>Cut waste materials into small pieces. Mix in a small amount of topsoil with the materials to introduce more microorganisms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compost pile is damp but will not heat up</td>
<td>Not enough nitrogen</td>
<td>Add GREEN materials to your pile.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When to Expect Results?

Compost piles can take a couple months or up to a year to decompose. It depends on the material used and the effort involved. Compost will be ready to use when it is dark in colour and has an “earthy” smell.

Visit Regina.ca/waste for more information and to view other composting options that fit your lifestyle.

DID YOU KNOW?

If your compost pile has enough water and oxygen, a good balance of material and enough volume, temperatures can reach above 55°C. Heat is the result of the microorganisms decomposing the organic material.
What is Composting?
Composting is a natural process that breaks down kitchen, lawn and garden waste into an earthy, soil-like material called, compost.

Why Compost?
1. Provides a free, nutrient-rich soil conditioner for plants, gardens and lawns.
2. It helps to retain soil moisture and nutrients.
3. Means less waste going to the landfill which reduces the methane gas emissions.
4. Reduces the need for expensive chemical fertilizers.
5. It’s easy and inexpensive!

Getting Started - 8 Easy Steps:

1. GET YOURSELF A COMPOST BIN: A compost bin should allow easy access to the pile inside and have spaces or holes for airflow.

TIP: A good size for a bin is approximately 1m³ so that the compost pile can generate heat.

2. CHOOSE A BIN LOCATION: Your compost bin should be located in an easily accessible spot in your yard with good drainage and lots of sunlight.

3. START YOUR COMPOST PILE: Start with a 5-10 cm layer of twigs and or other coarse materials at the bottom of your composter. This will promote airflow.

4. LAYER YOUR MATERIALS: A good rule of thumb is to have roughly equal parts of BROWN and GREEN materials.

TIP: After the first BROWN layer add a thin (approximately 2 cm) layer of your own garden soil to introduce microorganisms to the pile.

5. MIX COMPOST PILE: Every week or so, stir your compost pile. This adds oxygen to your pile which is a necessary component for organic materials to decompose quickly without odour.

6. ADD A DASH OF WATER: The microorganisms in your pile need moisture to move around. Keep your compost as moist as a well squeezed sponge.

7. HARVEST YOUR COMPOST: After 4–6 months your compost will be ready to use. The finished compost will be at the bottom of your pile and an easy way to get to it is to tip your bin over or access through a bottom door.

8. USE YOUR COMPOST: Compost can be added directly to the garden, flower beds and potted plants and worked into the soil.

TIP: Water your plants with compost tea! Put your finished compost in an old stocking and put in a bucket of water or your watering can. This method is an easy way to add nutrients to house or potted plants.

What to Compost:

**BROWNS**
- Dry leaves
- Evergreen needles
- Dried brown grass clippings
- Bark chips
- Straw
- Paper (shred or tear)
- Sawdust

*(dry carbon-rich material)*

**GREENS**
- Flowers
- Green leaves
- Fresh grass clippings
- Spoiled food
- Vegetables/ fruit peels & scraps
- Coffee grounds (including filter)
- Tea bags
- Egg shells (crushed)
- Cooked pasta and rice
- Breads

*(moist nitrogen-rich material)*

**AVOID**
- Dairy products
- Fatty/oily foods
- Weeds with mature seeds
- Meat, bones and fish scraps
- Pet waste
- Walnut shells
- Charcoal or coal ashes
- Plants or grass treated with chemicals

DID YOU KNOW?
By composting household materials you can cut the waste you send to the landfill by almost a half.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can continue to compost in the winter. In the fall, leave room in your bin to add materials so that in the winter you can simply add materials as they are generated. When spring arrives, the materials will thaw and begin to decompose.

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