

Backyard Compost Troubleshooting



Bad Odor, Smelly!
Pile is too wet
Materials are clumped
Lack of air flow

Turn pile
Mix in bulking material
Mix in brown material



(CC BY- KimmerKC- Flickr)

Too Wet, Slimy
Lack of air flow
Not enough brown material
Materials are matted or clumped

Turn pile and break up clumps
Mix in bulking material
Mix in brown material



(CC BY- Jason Baker- Flickr)

Too much brown moisture
Not enough moisture

Turn pile while adding water
Mix in more green material
Keep pile covered



(CC BY- Fishermansdaughter- Flickr)

Dry & Dusty

Can't Find The Humus ?

Hidden in bottom layer of pile
Compost is not finished

Check the under layers
Give the pile more time



(CC BY- Alan Levine- Flickr)

Is The Compost Ready?
Check out the size, smell, texture, color and temperature

Smells earthy
Doesn't heat up
Dark and crumbly
Pile shrunk by 1/2 its size



(CC BY- Normanack- Flickr)

Animal Pests: dogs, raccoons, coyotes

Keep pile covered
Don't add meat or bones
Bury food scraps 8-12in deep



(CC BY- Jon Shave- Flickr)

Flies & Gnats

Bury food scraps 2-4in deep
Cover pile with tarp, rug, etc.



(CC BY- VIU- Flickr)