Backyard Compost Troubleshooting

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

**Turn pile**
- Mix in bulking material

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

**Turn pile and break up clumps**
- Mix in brown material

**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

**Is The Compost Ready?**
- Smells earthy
- Doesn't heat up
- Pile shrunk by 1/2 its size

**Check out the size, smell, texture, color and temperature**

**Exposed food scraps**
- Meat products added to pile

**Animal Pests:** dogs, raccoons, coyotes

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

**Too much moisture**
- Not enough brown material

**Turn pile while adding water**
- Mix in brown material

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

**Pile is not covered**
- Exposed food scraps

**Not enough moisture**
- Mix in brown material

**Turn pile**
- Keep pile covered

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

**Too much moisture**
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**Turn pile while adding water**
- Mix in brown material