Successful composting means your composting method:

Easily **fits in with your lifestyle**, is acceptable to everyone in the household, requiring no major changes.

Is an activity which **gives you satisfaction**

Learn More, Take a class!

For more on composting methods and a complete list of classes please visit us at www.nmcomposters.org

Email us with questions at: compost-questions@nmcomposters.org

Prepared by Bernalillo County Extension Master Composters 8/2013, Revised 8/2017

**What is Compostable?**

Anything that was once alive!

- Food Scraps
- Dryer Lint
- Vacuum cleaner contents
- Natural Fiber Products
- Yard Trimmings and leaves
- Non-slick paper products (tissues, paper towels, egg cartons, paper rolls, cardboard, newsprint, cereal boxes)

Beginning composters might want to avoid adding meat, fish and dairy products which may attract vermin. As you become successful and understand the applications of your chosen method, more operations will apply.

**COMPOST HAPPENS. WE CAN HELP!**

www.nmcomposters.org
Getting
Answer the following questions.

Why compost? (Soil amendment, reduce landfill volume, environmentally friendly, why not?)

Start with considerations and concerns.

Considerations, concerns? (physical limitations, age, time, cost, water, neighbors, personal aversions [mice, bugs, odors, worms])

Location and available space? (inside, outside shady, above ground, below ground, containment ...)

What and how much do you have to compost? (kitchen scraps, yard waste, vegetarian animal manure)

Composting Methods

<table>
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<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| Outdoor Cold Composting | Little maintenance  
Turning optional, but moisture must be maintained  
Does not kill seeds  
End product in 12-18 months |
| Pit Composting       | Simple  
Bury organic material directly in soil  
Requires digging  
Decomposition complete in 12-18 months |
| Outdoor Hot Composting| Must be assembled all at once  
Requires a minimum 3’x3’x3’ bin  
Accommodates large amounts of organic materials  
Must be turned regularly (Good Exercise!)  
Moisture must be maintained  
End product in 3-6 months |
| Worm Composting      | Little maintenance—can be located indoors or out  
inexpensive equipment  
Requires less water to maintain moisture  
Processes smaller amounts of kitchen scraps  
Monitoring required to maintain optimal environment  
Finished worm castings in 3-6 months |
| Bokashi Bucket Composting | 2 stage process  
Stage 1: an anaerobic fermentation process  
Requiring addition of micro-organisms  
Can process all kitchen waste, including meat, bones and dairy  
Fermented product in 2-3 weeks  
Stage 2: fermented product buried in garden soil, or added to compost pile |

Start with considerations and concerns.

Examples

Cost: consider DIY approaches to all methods
Discomfort with bugs or rodents: consider Bokashi Method or sealed/raised bins
Animals: consider methods that are raised or sealed or won't attract animals, including the family dog
Age and/or strength factors: hot composting requires turning—consider a less strenuous method
Limited space: consider worms or bokashi
No convenient water: consider worms or bokashi
Lazy? or too much to do?: consider cold

Next, what are most of your compost materials?:

Fruit and vegetable scraps — all options
Household paper products: several options
Yard trimmings: hot or cold composting
Natural fiber products: hot or cold

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