



How to Compost in Bear Country



Composting *is* possible in bear country. Bears can smell scents from over a mile away, so the key is to ensure the compost bin is maintained properly to avoid odors that could attract wildlife.

How to maintain a bear-friendly compost bin:

1. GO BIG ON BROWN!

- A healthy compost bin is equal proportions of **brown** materials (carbon rich) and **green** materials (nitrogen rich). Add **browns** every time you add **greens**, covering the **greens** completely in **brown** layers no more than 4 inches thick.



BROWNS include:

- dead leaves
- grass clippings
- wood chips
- saw dust
- shredded or cut up low quality household paper products (e.g. tissue paper, paper towels, junk mail, paper bags, and cardboard rolls).



GREENS include:

- kitchen scraps
- vegetables
- small amounts of fruits.



NEVER add meat, fish, dairy products, oil, un-rinsed egg shells, cooked food, or large amounts of fruit.

2. ADD OXYGEN

- Aerate and turn the compost bin contents every couple of weeks. Then, cover with more **browns**. This will keep the compost from becoming smelly.



3. KEEP IT MOIST

- Ensure the compost is kept moist, like that of a wrung out sponge. If the contents are too dry, it will take longer to decompose and if too wet, the contents may begin to smell and mold!



Learn more about living in bear country at MyFWC.com/Bear

[F.A.C. 68A-4.001\(4\)\(b\)](#): Placing food or garbage, allowing the placement of food or garbage, or offering food or garbage that attracts bears and is likely to create or creates a nuisance is prohibited after receiving prior written notification from the Commission.