

# View Video

## THE COMPLETE HOME COMPOSTING VIDEO GUIDE PART I

# Types of Composting Bins

- Plastic Pre-made
- Rotating
- Do-it-Yourself

# Plastic Bins



Seattle Composter



Soil Saver

# Plastic Bins



Rubbermaid



Earth Machine



# Rotating Bins



Rotating Envirocycle



Tumble Bug

# Rotating Bins





# Do it Yourself Bins



# Important questions to ask yourself

- What do you want to use your compost for?
- What type of composting do you want to do?
- How quickly do you want a finished material?
- How much time and effort are you willing to commit to composting?



# Common Problems

- Turning the pile
- Moisture content
- Oxygen content
- Carbon / Nitrogen ratio
- Volume
- Pests

# Turning the pile

- The pile must be turned on a regular basis.
- Turning frequency is determined by multiple factors.
  - Desired rate of decomposition
  - Temperature of the pile
  - Moisture content
  - Parent materials

# Moisture Content

- Inadequate Moisture
  - Micro-organisms hibernate or die.
  - Composting activity slows or stops.
- Excessive Moisture
  - Microorganisms shift from aerobic to anaerobic.
  - Nutrients are lost through leaching and volatilization.

# Oxygen Content

- Insufficient oxygen causes anaerobic conditions.
  - Indications:
    - \* Sour or ammonia odor
    - \* Temperature drop
- Oxygen can be added by more frequent turning and the addition of larger woody materials.



# Carbon/Nitrogen Ratio

- An adequate nitrogen source is fundamentally important for hot composting.
- Too little nitrogen, hot composting will not occur.
- Too much nitrogen can cause the pile to become anaerobic more quickly.
- Small continuous imputes of nitrogen are not recommended for hot composting.

# Volume

- The larger the pile or amount of material the more stable the composting system.
  - Moisture is conserved
  - Temperature is insulated
  - Environmental conditions have less effect.
- If a pile is too small hot composting is unlikely to occur.

# Pests

- Pests include wild, domestic and farm animals looking for a tasty meal.
- Pests can take your compost pile apart.
- Meats and cheeses are generally avoided because they are pest magnets.
- A strong compost box or modified bin can reduce or even eliminate pest problems.

# Web Sites

- <http://www.epa.osw>
- <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/search.html>
- <http://www.mastercomposter.com>
- <http://compost.css.cornell.edu>
- <http://soilfoodweb.com>
- <http://www.sedhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html>



# Publications

- The Rodale Book of Composting
- Let it Rot: The gardeners guide to composting
- Composting to reduce the waste stream: A guide to small scale food and yard waste composting
- The Humanure HandBook

# The Most Important Things to Remember !!!!!

- You have to do it to learn it.
- Mistakes are the best lessons.
- Have Fun.