

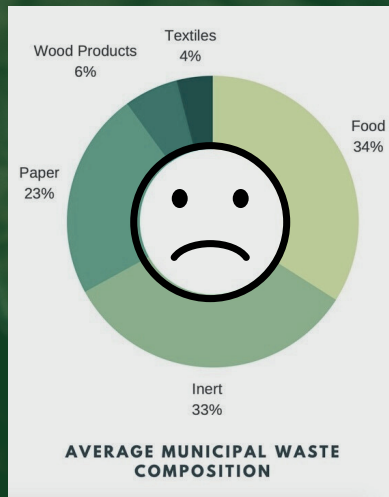
Composting in Bear Country

Composting in bear country can be tricky, but by carefully following these guidelines, you can do it!

- Balance your 'greens' & 'browns'. A healthy compost pile needs at least as much carbon-rich brown material (e.g. wood chips, sawdust, straw, dry leaves) as nitrogen-rich green material (e.g. fruit & vegetable scraps).
- Stir or poke the compost pile - this adds oxygen and speeds up decomposition.
- Don't add meat, fish, dairy products, oil, unrinsed eggshells, cooked food or large amounts of fruit.
- Keep compost moist (think of a wrung-out sponge). Add water to moisten or dry leaves to absorb water as needed.
- Add lime or wood ash if compost starts to smell.
- Store food scraps in the freezer in the fall when bears are actively searching for food. Compost them later in the season when bears are hibernating.



Food makes up 34% of Municipal Waste



That's a big problem...

Organic waste piles up in landfills & produces methane (a potent greenhouse gas).

Emissions from organic waste decomposing in Canadian landfills accounts for 20% of national methane emissions

Composting can help reduce greenhouse emissions



Instead of throwing out your organic waste, compost it!

Applying finished compost to your garden:

- promotes healthier & more vital plant growth
- reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers
- improves water retention & helps deliver nutrients to plants

Sources:

- <https://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/en/planning-and-maps/resources/Documents/v2-Dysart-CCCMP.pdf>
- <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-composting-can-reduce-our-impact-planet>
- <https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/ClimateChangeBenefits>

