

# TROUBLESHOOTING

THE PROBLEM	THE CAUSE	THE SOLUTION
Compost smells like rotten eggs	Not enough Air	Turn the pile and add more brown material
Pile doesn't heat up	Pile is too small or too dry	Add more greens to pile and add water while turning
The center of the pile is dry	Not enough moisture	Add water while turning
The pile is attracting ants	Food scraps not buried and pile too dry	Bury all food scraps, and add water to pile
Flies buzz around the pile and rodents forage through at night	Food scraps exposed, wrong ingredients deposited	Bury all food scraps, do not put any meat, oils, or dairy products into pile.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[www.reduceyourwaste.com/CranfordNJCompostBinSales.html](http://www.reduceyourwaste.com/CranfordNJCompostBinSales.html)

[www.epa.gov/compost](http://www.epa.gov/compost)

[www.mygreencranford.org](http://www.mygreencranford.org)

**WHEN IN DOUBT  
LEAVE IT OUT!**

## TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD

**CRANFORD RECYCLING DEPT  
8 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE  
CRANFORD, NJ 07016**

(P) 908-709-7299  
(F) 908-497-1540  
(E) [j-kobliska@cranfordnj.org](mailto:j-kobliska@cranfordnj.org)

## TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD

# GUIDE TO BACKYARD COMPOSTING

**Recycling Coordinator  
Jennifer Kobliska  
908-709-7299  
[j-kobliska@cranfordnj.org](mailto:j-kobliska@cranfordnj.org)**



# WHAT IS COMPOSTING AND WHY DO IT?



Composting is a controlled natural decomposition of organic material, such as leaves, grass clippings, prunings, and fruit and vegetable scraps.



Composting saves money by reducing the need to purchase commercial fertilizers and soil amendments.



Composting benefits your yard and garden by improving soil health and fertility. It also helps the environment by recycling organic material and extending the life of landfills.

## GETTING STARTED

Backyard composting bins can be purchased at [www.reduceyourwaste.com/CranfordNJCompostBinSales.html](http://www.reduceyourwaste.com/CranfordNJCompostBinSales.html)

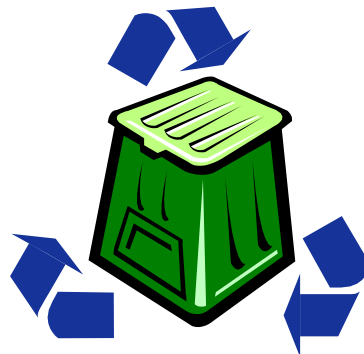
[www.mygreencranford.org/Backyard\\_Composting.html](http://www.mygreencranford.org/Backyard_Composting.html)

Backyard composting bins can ONLY be located in the rear yard of residential property.

Backyard composting bins cost \$75.99+ tax. FREE SHIPPING!

## COMPOSTING BASICS

- There are four basic ingredients required for composting **GREENS** (50%), **BROWNS** (50%), **WATER**, and **AIR**. Mixing the proper amounts of each ingredient is crucial.
- **GREENS** include grass clippings, green leaves, fresh prunings, and fruits and vegetable scraps. Be sure not to add any meat or dairy to pile.
- **BROWNS** consist of dry, woody material such as dead leaves, wood chips, twigs, sawdust, and paper. These materials are best when shredded or chopped to prevent bulky pile.
- **WATER**—keep pile moist.
- **AIR** is essential to a sweet smelling composting pile. Turn your pile once or twice a week.



## USING FINISHED COMPOST



Top dress your planters by spreading compost to a depth of 3 inches around the base of plants and shrubs, much like you'd spread mulch.



For lawns, screen compost over the surface of lawn to a depth of 1/2 inch.

## TRAINING SESSIONS

FREE SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER ON MAY 18TH & JUNE 15TH. PLEASE SEE CRANFORD NEWSLETTER AND TOWNSHIP WEBPAGES FOR UPDATES ON TIMES. VISIT [WWW.MYGREENCRANFORD.ORG](http://WWW.MYGREENCRANFORD.ORG) FOR A SCHEDULE OF FUTURE EVENTS.

