

Composting for *Beginners*

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Do Compost	Do Not Compost & Why
Fruits and vegetables	Black walnut tree leaves or twigs
Eggshells	- Releases substances that might be harmful to plants
Coffee grounds and filters	Coal or charcoal ash
Tea bags	- Might contain substances harmful to plants
Nut shells	Dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs
Shredded newspaper	- Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
Cardboard	Diseased or insect-ridden plants
Paper	- Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants
Yard trimmings	Fats, grease, lard, or oils
Grass clippings	- Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
Houseplants	Meat or fish bones and scraps
Hay and straw	- Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
Leaves	Pet wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)
Sawdust	- Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans
Wood chips	Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides
Cotton and Wool Rags	- Might kill beneficial composting organisms
Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint	
Hair and fur	
Fireplace ashes	