In a climate instable world, composting at home is one of the very best ways to make an environmental impact. By taking control over your waste stream you can stop contributing to methane production in landfills and turn precious organic matter from garbage into vibrant living soils! Channel the natural process of decomposition and let compost happen! There’s no wrong way to do it, but these helpful guidelines will give you a beautiful end product in a short amount of time with no odor.

**Worm Bin – Vermicomposting:**

- **Supplies:** 2 Rubbermaid bins, 1 lid, power drill, red wriggler worms, food scraps, bedding = grass, leaves, paper
- **Don’t compost:** meat, dairy, onions/garlic, citrus
- Requires equal parts food and bedding. The smaller the pieces the faster it works. Can add soil or unfinished compost also.
- **Pros:** Fits in small spaces. Convenient to keep in kitchen. Highest nutrient content. Good for renters.
- **Cons:** Can’t handle large amounts of food waste. Harvesting compost is more complicated.

**Yard Bin Compost:**

- **Supplies:** pallets or Hardware cloth, power drill, cloth/burlap cover, food scraps, “browns”, “greens”
- **Browns/carbon rich matter** = fallen leaves, straw, paper, cardboard, wood mulch, pine needles, wood ash, sawdust
- **Greens/nitrogen rich matter** = grass clippings, green leaves, aged manure, coffee grounds
- Balanced system is roughly 30% Greens, 50% Browns, 20% Food Waste
- Covering food with yard waste every time you add to the pile will deter birds and rodents.
- Water and turn weekly for quick usage and to minimize odors.
- Avoid adding: weeds with seed heads & large woody matter.
- Cover pile with burlap/fabric/wood to prevent airborne seeds, retain moisture, & increase heat.
- Allow for airflow on all sides and build on soil (not concrete) so organisms can access best.

**Other Methods of Improving Soil:**

- Keep soil covered at all times to prevent erosion and retain moisture. Use mulch or cover crops.
- Plant nitrogen fixers like legumes and clover to convert gaseous/soil nitrogen into usable fertilizer.
- Grow comfrey. Use the leaves as mulch, to activate the compost pile, or make liquid fertilizer with it.
- Bury your food scraps in “honey holes” throughout your landscape.
- Organic fertilizers preserve soil structure, release slowly, & contain more trace minerals and nutrients.
- Rotate crops regularly.