

Simple guidelines to composting

Composting is a biological process and needs:
Food, air, water and time

The minimum pile size: 3' X 3' X 3'
This is necessary to retain heat produced by the microorganisms

Starting Carbon/Nitrogen (C/N): 30/1
<http://www.klickitatcounty.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3523>

Particle size of compostables: <2" AND >.5"

Air: Turn -> Porosity

Moisture by Feel (water): Ideal moisture content 40-60%
Take handful of material. Squeeze firmly
Water escapes: > 60 %
Shiny ball: 55% - 60 %
Ball remains when tapped: 50 - 55 %
Ball falls apart when tapped: 45 - 50 %
No ball forms: 40 - 45 %
Unless hand feels powdery dry: < 40 %

Temperature:
> 131° F and < 163°F
Use chart and thermometer

The compost is finished when:
No plant material visible
Dark earth like appearance. It stains the hands black
Has a pleasant, earthy odor
C/N is < 20/1