

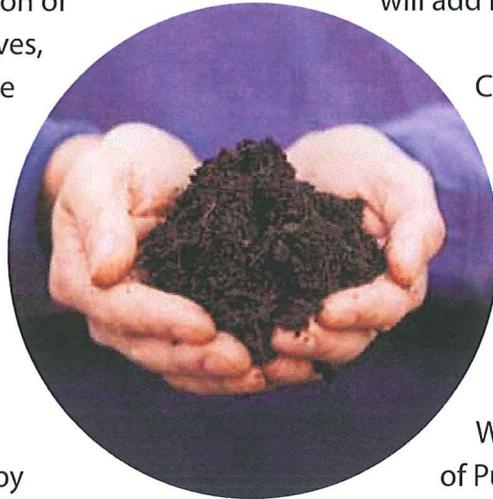
How Compost Happens and Why Do It?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is a controlled decomposition of organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable and fruit scraps.

Composting helps keep the high volume of organic material out of our landfills and waste to energy facilities and turns it into a useful product. Over 30% of the waste generated by Minnesota households is organic material. You can compost in your backyard with homemade or manufactured compost bins or piles (some cities do require enclosed bins), with worms (vermi-composting)* or at a commercial composting facility. Businesses, schools, and other facilities can also compost.

Compost is great for gardens and landscaping, and you can save money by buying less soil amendment. Compost can also be used as a

moisture holding mulch and a lawn dressing that will add nutrients to the soil.



Contact Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment or your local community for information about composting guidelines, drop off facilities, bins for sale and more.

Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment
Phone: 651-430-6655,
website: www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth

*Vermi-composting, or red worm composting, uses red wiggler worms to biologically decompose food wastes.

