

Compost Guide

Bring your compost waste to the bins on the right side of the church, near the forested area. All compost will be used for the gardens and landscaping here at Incarnation! Please be sure to follow these guidelines and use appropriate bins (as labeled).

What is compost?

Composting is the decomposition of plant remains and other once-living materials to make an earthy, dark, crumbly substance that is excellent for adding to houseplants or enriching garden soil. It is the way to recycle your yard and kitchen wastes and is a critical step in reducing the volume of garbage needlessly sent to landfills for disposal. Compost does several things to benefit the soil that synthetic fertilizers cannot do. It adds organic matter, which improves the way water interacts with the soil. In clay soils like ours, compost helps to add porosity (tiny holes and passageways) to the soil, making it drain more quickly so that it doesn't stay waterlogged and doesn't dry out into a bricklike substance.



Compost also inoculates the soil with vast numbers of beneficial microbes (bacteria, fungi, etc.) and creates the habitat that the microbes need to live. These microbes are able to extract nutrients from the mineral part of the soil and eventually pass the nutrients on to plants.

What CAN be composted?

- chopped leaves (large leaves take a long time to break down)
- garden plants (not treated with chemicals/fertilizers)
- hay
- kitchen waste (vegetables, fruits, eggshells)
- lawn clippings (not sprayed with chemicals/fertilizers)
- newspaper and shredded paper
- shredded branches
- straw or hay
- tea leaves and coffee grounds
- weeds (before they go to seed)
- wood ash

What CANNOT be composted?

- any chemically-treated wood products
- diseased plants
- excessive wood ashes
- human and pet wastes
- meat scraps, dairy products, fatty trash, bones
- pernicious weeds
- sawdust



Hang this on your refrigerator or near your compost & recycling bins for easy reference!