

Composting Leaves

If you have too many leaves to incorporate into the compost bin, you can simply compost the pile of leaves by itself. Locate the pile where drainage is adequate; a shaded area will help keep the pile from drying out.

The leaf pile should be at least 4' in diameter and 3' in height. Include a layer of dirt between each foot of leaves. The pile should be damp enough that when a sample taken from the interior is squeezed by hand, a few drops of moisture will appear. The pile should not be packed too tightly.

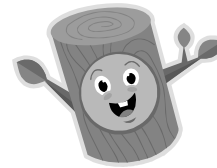
The pile will compost in 4 - 6 months, with the material being dark and crumbly. Leaf compost is best used as an organic soil amendment and conditioner; it is not normally used as a fertilizer because it is low in nutrients.

http://eartheco.com/grow_compost.html



What to Compost - The IN List

- Animal manure
- Cardboard rolls
- Clean paper
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Cotton rags
- Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- Eggshells
- Fireplace ashes
- Fruits and vegetables
- Grass clippings
- Hair and fur
- Hay and straw
- Houseplants
- Leaves
- Nut shells
- Sawdust
- Shredded newspaper
- Tea bags
- Wood chips
- Wool rags
- Yard trimmings



<http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/rrr/composting/basic.htm>

Learn More:

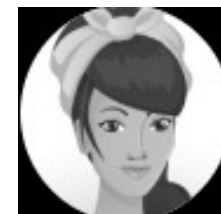
www.DanversCleanAirForAll.yolasite.com

www.EcoMom.LivingGreenSimply.com

*I believe we can create a better world,
one choice at a time.*



Follow me as I explore topics like Composting, Recycling while on Vacation, Cloth Shopping Bags, Cloth Diapers, Non-Toxic Cleaners, Daily Green Choices, Wallpaper Removal + VOC Free Paint, Non-Chemical ways to handle Weeds, making Rain Barrels, and even Coffee from a Mom's perspective.



Sincerely,

Simply,

EcoMom

FACTS:

*Nearly half of

Illinois residents

have some form of

health problem

that can be

worsened by the

toxins released

from a smoky

leaf fire, even

blocks away.

(Am. Heart Assoc. of IL)

FACTS

*Burning leaves will produce

carbon monoxide, particulate

matter (most small enough to

be easily absorbed in the

deepest regions of the lungs

and remain there for months

to even years causing negative

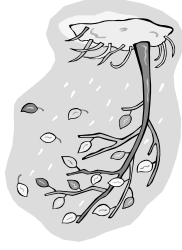
health effects) and at least 7

highly carcinogenic

(cancer-causing) polycyclic

aromatic hydrocarbons

(Am. Heart Assoc. of IL)



*Farmers use compost for enhancing
crops and for sod production

*Nurseries use compost for enhancing
plant and forest seedling crops in refor-
estation projects.

*Landscapers use compost as a soil
amendment and landscape cover at
residential and commercial properties,
golf courses, and athletic fields. Land-
scapers also use compost to cover land-
fills and carry out soil reclamation pro-
jects.

*Public agencies use compost for land-
scaping highway median strips, parks,
recreational areas, and other public
property.

(EPA-452/F-93-010 Aug. '93)