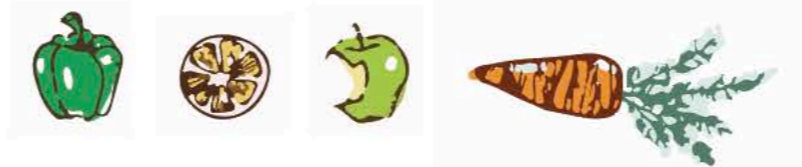


# Does compost stink?

The presence of unpleasant odors is just a symptom of a correctable problem, usually an imbalance of too much green (kitchen waste) and not enough brown (yard waste).

Once you find that balance, your compost pile can join your trash can in smelling better than ever from your minimal effort to divert produce waste back to the soil where it belongs!



Visit [GreenNorman.org](http://GreenNorman.org) to learn more!



# Food Waste

**BREAKING IT DOWN**



**1** in every **3** food calories that comes into the American home **leaves as waste** without ever being eaten.

Once food enters the landfill, it becomes a **ticking time bomb...**

Food waste decomposes and **releases methane** into the atmosphere, a known **greenhouse gas**.



So, how can we mitigate the worst environmental effects of food surpluses?

## COMPOSTING

Crack this brochure open to learn about the personal and environmental benefits of composting and how to get started!

# What is composting?

**Composting is the recycling of the nutrients contained within some foods using natural cycles already at work in your yard.**

To compost, simply collect and store plant material and certain food waste in a bin outside with a little bit of soil.



# What do I get out of it?

- free organic fertilizer for your garden
- reduced trash can stinkiness
- warm fuzzy feeling

# What can I compost?

- YES** ■ Produce (uncooked fruit, vegetables, etc.)
- YES** ■ Yard Waste (grass, leaves, twigs)
- YES** ■ Newspapers
- YES** ■ Cardboard (Amazon boxes, amiright?)
- YES** ■ Coffee Grounds
- YES** ■ Tea Bags
- YES** ■ Egg Shells
- NO** ■ Meat / Bones
- NO** ■ Non-organic Material (plastic, stickers, glossy paper, metals)
- NO** ■ Pet Waste
- NO** ■ Weather-treated Wood Byproducts
- NO** ■ Seed-bearing Plants



Meat and bones, as well as produce that has been cooked using added oils, remain bound for the landfill... unless you get a goat!

**Broadly, if it came out of the ground... it can go back into it. But not all kitchen waste can be composted.**

# How Do I Start Composting?

**Composting tumblers are available for purchase at local retailers, online, and from the City of Norman during the annual rain barrel sale - but they aren't necessary to start composting today!**

- Scraps can be collected in a sealed container to reduce odor in the kitchen.
- Designate a space (3'x3') in your yard and lay down some sticks and branches.
- Add scraps until they uniformly cover your designated space.
- Cover with a thin layer of soil and then add yard waste atop that.
- Give the pile a good soaking with a water hose.
- Lather, rinse, repeat until the pile is 2 or 3 feet deep.
- Allow compost 6-12 months to decompose before repurposing as soil.
- Add any solid materials from the pile that have not decomposed to your new pile.

