

1 Bin Compost System Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	CAUSES	SOLUTIONS
Compost is too wet	Not enough air flow	Turn your pile more frequently
	Too much green material	Add more browns
	Green material is too wet	Reduce the amount of food waste you add to your pile for a couple of days
Compost is too dry	Too much brown material	Add more nitrogen-rich greens such as food scraps or coffee grounds.
	Too Dry	Add water or moist green material
Compost is smelly	Too much moisture in your pile	Add brown material
	Poor aeration	Turn your pile
Compost pile not heating up	Not enough moisture	Add more water
	Not enough green material	Add more moist green material like food scraps
	Pile is not big enough	Layer your green and brown material until your bin is completely full
	Feedstocks are too large	Chop up your greens and browns so they are easier to break down
Compost pile is too hot	155°F or lower: Great! The pile is reaching high enough temperatures to break down material!	Monitor your pile over the next few days to ensure it does not get hotter than 155°F
	155°F or higher: Compost is too hot and may start to kill beneficial microorganisms	Consider reducing the size of your pile, turning it more frequently, and adding bulky brown material to increase aeration

