

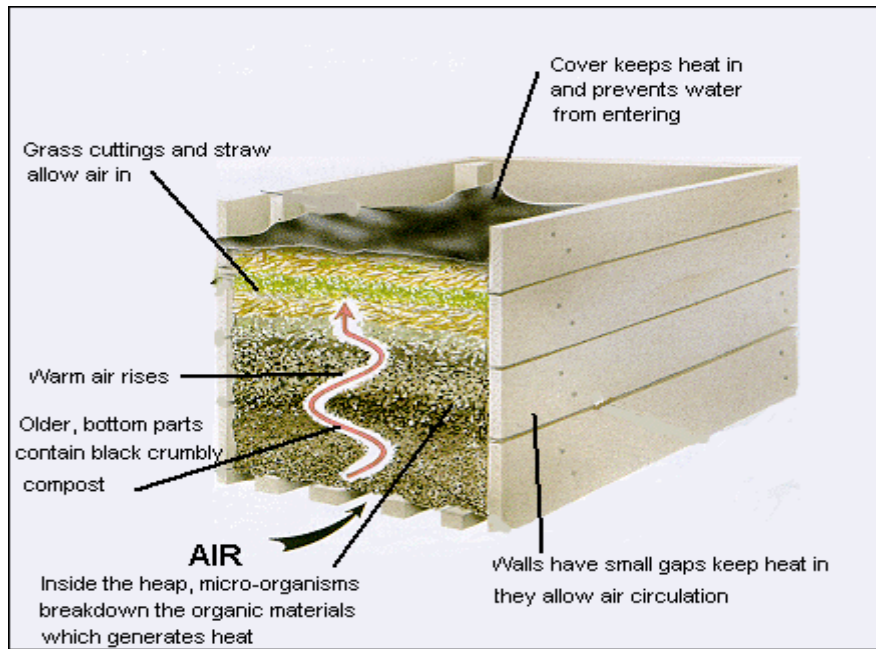
VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES YARDWASTE COMPOSTING REGULATIONS



Compost Piles and Bins

1. Compost piles or bins may be located only in side or rear yards.
2. Compost piles or bins cannot be placed or constructed in such a way so as to allow materials to be windblown.
3. Compost piles or bins cannot emit odorous matter in such quantities as to be readily detectable at any point along lot lines, or so as to produce a public nuisance or hazard beyond lot lines.
4. A large amount of grass clippings or branches next to a tree is not compost or mulch.

There are several ways to construct compost piles and many types of composting bins are available at retail establishments. Piles should be placed on level ground in a sheltered, well-drained area, out of constant direct sunlight. However, they should not be placed in constantly shaded areas, such as under trees. Be considerate of your neighbors and choose a spot out of direct view.



Composting

Leaves, grass clippings, small branch and vine prunings, weeds and spent flowers and garden plants all make excellent compost, also called humus. It is highly desirable to keep a mixture of materials in your pile. One that contains only grass will create objectionable odors. Proper composting generates temperatures high enough to kill insect eggs and most seeds, so weeds can be included.

It is possible to add items such as vacuum cleaner lint, small quantities of sawdust, pine needles and cold grill or fireplace ashes to compost. Such organics help distribute moisture evenly throughout the pile. Another suggestion is to add some shredded newspaper. Please note that charcoal grill residue may adversely affect some species of plants. If in doubt, leave ashes out, or call your local nursery or garden center for advise.

In general, it is not recommended to add food scraps to compost piles. Besides potentially creating odors, doing so will attract animals or rodents. In particular, **DO NOT** compost meats, fats, oils, grease, bones, salad dressing, cheese or dairy products of any kind. Some items, such as fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags, coffee grounds and stale bread are usually okay. However, they must be chopped up and mixed-in well to keep the pile from becoming soggy and smelly, and to avoid attracting pests.

To help speed the composting process, run small woody yard wastes and leaves through a shredder or lawnmower first. Different organizations also suggest adding such ingredients such as sulfur to increase acidity, lime or rock phosphate to reduce acidity, and manure, bloodmeal, potash, ammonium nitrate, or commercial fertilizer to add nitrogen. Remember to turn the compost pile once in a while to keep temperatures from becoming too high.

A properly managed compost pile should have an earthy, somewhat sweet aroma.