

## 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](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:

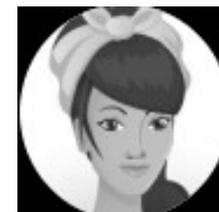
[www.DanversCleanAirForAll.yolasite.com](http://www.DanversCleanAirForAll.yolasite.com)

[www.EcoMom.LivingGreenSimply.com](http://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 reforestation projects.

\*Landscapers use compost as a soil amendment and landscape cover at residential and commercial properties, golf courses, and athletic fields. Landscapers also use compost to cover landfills and carry out soil reclamation projects.

\*Public agencies use compost for landscaping highway median strips, parks, recreational areas, and other public property.

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

