

How Do I Fix My Compost: Troubleshooting Guide

Compost Smells Bad

Did you...?

Add meat, greasy food or dairy?

Use 60% or more browns?

Cover all food scraps on top and sides?

Solution:

Add more browns and turn. Top with more browns. To fix odors, you can also add used coffee grounds. Remember to always use 60% browns

Too Wet

Cover in the rain, uncover in the sun

Avoid adding liquidy or soupy foods

Examine your site. Is it sitting in a puddle or low area? Getting water from an overhanging building? If so, consider moving your compost.

Too Dry

Cover in the rain, uncover in the sun

Are you using 40% greens? If not, add more

Solution:

Add water, turn and let it soak in. Repeat several times. You are trying to hydrate mulch and other browns, which often absorb slowly

Not Breaking Down

Are you using 40% greens? If not, add more and turn

Is your pile dry?

Flies or Other Pests

Flies? Add more browns

Rodents?

Do you see evidence of burrowing into the top? Add more browns, consider adding a cover or lid

Is something trying to dig under the bin? When you start a pile, use 6-12 inches of browns on the bottom. You can place large pavers or hardware cloth under the compost pile to prevent rodents from burrowing under