



Thursday's Tip: Rot the Rest

How to Reduce Waste by Composting

Despite your best efforts, you may find that you're still winding up with food scraps. Don't be discouraged – a great way to recover their nutrient value is through composting. You'll keep organic material out of the landfill and if you're a gardener, end up with some high quality soil amendment and fertilizer!



Use Your Bin

If your building or municipality has a green bin system, use it! Be sure to familiarize yourself with what can be composted in your area – the range of material programs accept will vary. Call the Recycling Hotline (info below) to find out what's available in your community.



Find Your System

Like most things, composting is not one-size fits all solution. You'll need to consider what kind of space you have, what scraps you would like to compost, as well as your intended use for the resulting compost.

Below are a few options:

Have a Yard?

- Try composting with a popular [backyard bin](#).
- You could also try [trenching](#), which involves burying organic waste directly into your garden - all you need is a shovel! This method helps keep pests away and allows you to compost more items, like meat, grains, and dairy.

Short on Space?

- Try [vermicomposting](#)! Also known as worm composting, it's a simple option that involves a ventilated bin of red wiggler worms. It's fast, ideal for composting scraps like fruit, vegetables, and egg shells, but not ideal for meat and dairy. Bins can be kept indoors or outdoors, are generally cheap to purchase and easy to make, and yield some of the highest quality material.
- Compact composting systems like [Bokashi](#) or [Naturemill](#) systems will fit under your sink and process a variety of scraps, relatively odour-free!



Troubleshoot

- If your compost is starting to smell, is dry, or attracting pests, it needs your attention. If you're in the Lower Mainland, you can try the Compost Hotline at 604-736-2250, or try the [Compost Education Centre's website](#) for lots of great troubleshooting advice.

Up next: We take a look at what you can do in your community to help reduce food waste.

Need more information?

Contact the **RCBC Recycling Hotline!**

Lower Mainland: 604-732-9253 | BC Toll-Free: 1-800-667-4321

www.rcbc.ca

