

Amaze Your Brain *at Home!*

EXPERIMENTS

BEST FOR
18 months-
4 years

COMPACT COMPOST

MATERIALS

- Ziploc bag, sandwich or snack size
- Straw
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Egg carton or newspaper
- Water



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Chop the vegetable scraps into small pieces (smaller pieces will compost faster). Put them into the Ziploc bag.
2. Shred or chop the egg carton into tiny pieces. Add them to the Ziploc bag.
3. Add 1-2 tablespoons of water to the bag. You want everything to be wet.
4. Put the straw in the bag, so it is sticking out. Zip the bag closed around the straw.
5. Wait, and observe as your scraps begin to decay. Continue adding water to keep the ingredients moist.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

You probably already have a recycling bin at home for your glass and plastic, but did you know you can recycle your leftover vegetables? You can use your fruit and vegetable scraps to make compost at home! Compost is fertilizer that is made from decomposed organic matter, like food scraps, grass, and leaves.

To make compost, you will need equal parts brown material (our egg cartons) and green material (our food scraps). The green materials are high in nitrogen and the brown materials are high in carbon. These elements create a perfect environment for microorganisms, or tiny bacteria, to live.

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Although these microorganisms are so tiny you can't even see them, they have a big job! They eat and breakdown the scraps in your compost bin, and turn them into chemicals that can be absorbed by plants. You can tell your compost is complete when you have a dark, crumbly looking soil in your bag. Now you can add it to your garden or use it as potting soil!

What can I add to my compost bin?

GREEN MATERIAL

vegetable scraps
fruit scraps
eggshells
coffee grounds
grass clippings

BROWN MATERIAL

dead leaves
newspaper
cardboard
sawdust



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