Compostable materials are either carbon or nitrogen based food scraps (fruits, veggies, bread), paper products (coffee filters, brown bags, or teabags), or organic materials (plants, leaves, straw, soil, wood).

The ideal carbon/nitrogen ratio: 1/3 nitrogen (green) to 2/3 carbon (brown).

In order to decompose, compost must heat up. The hotter the pile gets, the faster it breaks down into compost. The ideal temperature is between 110 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit. You don’t need one, but compost thermometers are available.

Keep the pile moist by watering occasionally. It should feel like a damp sponge.