

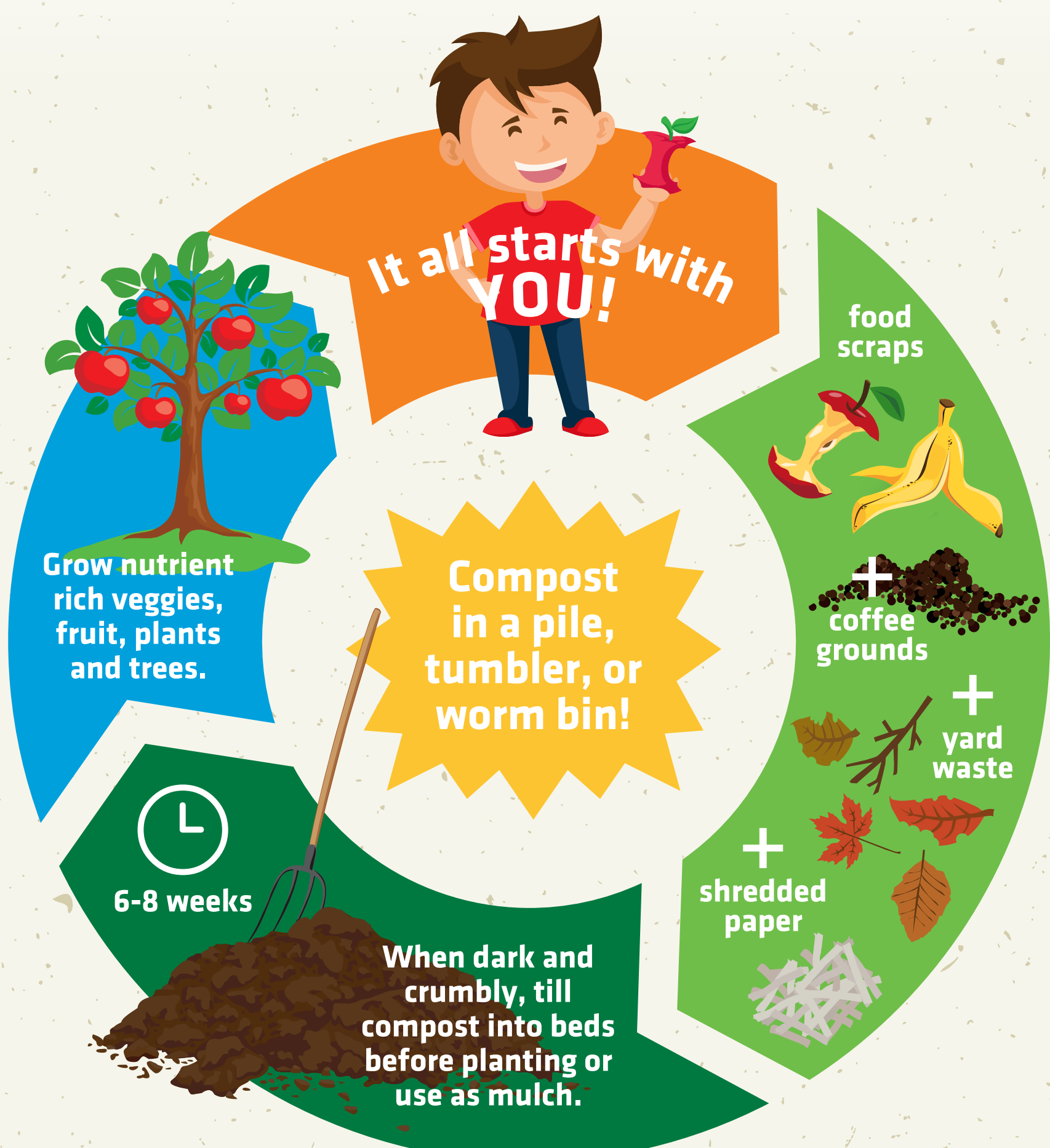
# COMPOST AT HOME

## WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is a quick, easy, and low-cost way to create healthy soil for your plants and reduce your reliance on landfills. Decomposers like worms and microorganisms transform food scraps and other natural materials like leaves into nutrient-rich soil without the use of chemicals. Decomposers may be too small to see with your naked eye or as large as a snail! Just like you, these critters require a certain recipe of food, water, and air to produce a high-quality output.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- In 2016, 13% of landfilled material in Franklin County, OH was food scraps.
- 1 lb of red wiggler worms can eat 3.5 lbs of food scraps per week!
- Most food waste is avoidable with thoughtful planning, purchasing, and storage. Learn more at [swaco.org](http://swaco.org).



**30% GREENS**  
(nitrogen)

**70% BROWNS**  
(carbon)

## AVOID:

- Yard waste contaminated with chemicals
- Diseased, invasive, or poisonous plants
- Weeds with Seeds
- Meat, fish, grease, or dairy
- Cat or dog waste, kitty litter
- Plastic, bio-plastic, glass, and metal



**microorganisms**



**macro-decomposers**



**water:**

Achieve the moisture level of a wrung-out sponge.

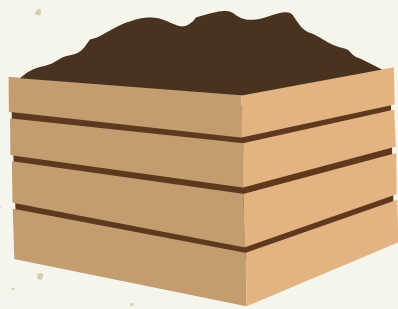


**aeration:**

Flip it at least one time a week.

## BUY OR BUILD A SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

### PILE



1. Location, location, location. Select a bare soil spot within reach of the hose with good drainage and some sun.
2. Create a base layer of wood chips or fine sticks and dry leaves, then alternate 6" layers of 'Green' materials (weeds, food scraps) with layers of shredded 'Brown' material.
3. Add a microorganism rich activator like aged compost or garden soil to jumpstart decomposition.

### TUMBLER OR BIN

If space is limited or odor and pests are a concern, create a closed decomposition system.



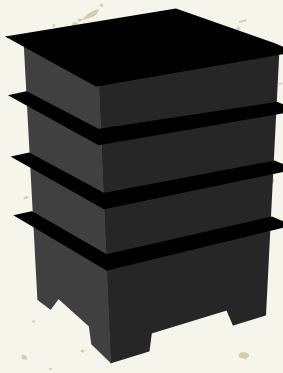
These can be placed in the yard, garage, or patio but aren't used inside.

### WORM BIN

(Vermicomposting)

If you don't have a yard you can still compost! Put your vermicomposting bins in your basement, under your sink, or in your laundry room.

1. Create bedding made of damp 'Browns' in a 2 ft. x 2 ft. bin.
2. Add 1 lb. of red wigglers delivered in the mail or picked up from the store.
3. Add your worms then layer your 'Browns' and 'Greens'.



## Dig in Deeper!

- **Food waste reduction tips:** <http://www.swaco.org/296/Food-Waste>
- **Yard waste composting in Franklin County:** <http://www.swaco.org/200/Yard-Waste>
- **Get rid of those old lawn chemicals polluting our waterways and other household hazardous waste:** <http://www.swaco.org/195/Household-Hazardous-Waste>
- **Compost Coloring Book:** <http://eekwi.org/cool/nrcolbk.pdf>
- **Learn more about worms:** <http://extension.illinois.edu/worms/>
- **Everything you need to know about composting:** [http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/docs/about\\_nyc-master-composter-manual-mcm\\_0815.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/docs/about_nyc-master-composter-manual-mcm_0815.pdf)
- **Worm Composting 101:** <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/downloads/pdf/promotional-materials/indoor-worm-bin-composting-brochure-06340-f.pdf>

## Pro Tips:

- There are many options for composting bins. Buy one or make your own to save money.
- Chop or tear bulky material for faster decomposition.
- Bury with 'Brown' to keep odor down.
- Freeze your food scraps to keep smells under wraps.
- Know your source of materials to ensure you don't add 'Browns' that may be contaminated with chemicals.
- Share your leftover compost with a friend or community garden.

