

# 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

Uncover in the rain, cover 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