

Burying Food Scraps

Select a spot

Food waste can be buried in empty spots in vegetable and flower gardens, or in holes dug around the drip line of trees and shrubs. The drip line is below the ends of branches, where feeder roots are connected.

Dig a hole

Use a shovel or post hole digger to make a hole at least a foot deep.

Add food scraps

Add 3 to 4 inches of food scraps at the bottom of the hole. Use a shovel to chop and mix the wastes into the soil to speed composting.

Cover with soil

Cover food scraps with at least 8 inches of soil to prevent rodents and pets from digging them up.

Plant

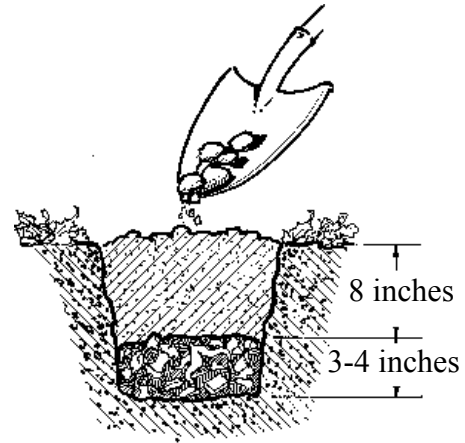
Buried food scraps may take from two to six months to decompose, depending on soil temperature, moisture, worm population and what is buried. In good garden soil, leafy greens will break down in weeks while citrus peels may persist for several months. If the soil is loose and fertile, annual plants may be planted on top of burial areas immediately. If the soil requires tilling before planting, wait a month or more, then check burial areas before tilling to make sure that undecomposed food does not come to the surface.

Do Bury

- Vegetable scraps
- Grains and pasta
- Fruit rinds and peels
- Breads and cereals
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Egg shells
- Paper napkins

Do Not Bury

- Meat
- Fish and poultry
- Cheese
- Oily foods
- Butter
- Other animal products



Compost Workshops

The County of Santa Cruz offers workshops throughout the year. Residents of the City of Scotts Valley and the unincorporated area can learn how to compost and get an incredible deal on a compost bin. Worms are available at cost at Wormshops. Check the schedule on the website or call the Rotline or the Worm Doctor.

Master Composter Program

Master Composters attend classes and field trips to learn about composting and develop effective presentation techniques. They volunteer at home composting workshops and hands-on wormshops. For more information call the Rotline and leave a message.

Learn more about composting and order publications on-line at
www.compostsantacruzcounty.org

Questions about Composting with Worms?
Call the Worm Doctor, (831) 427-3452

General Questions about Home Composting?
Call the Rotline, (831) 423-HEAP (4327)



The Home Composting Program is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and produced by the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services

