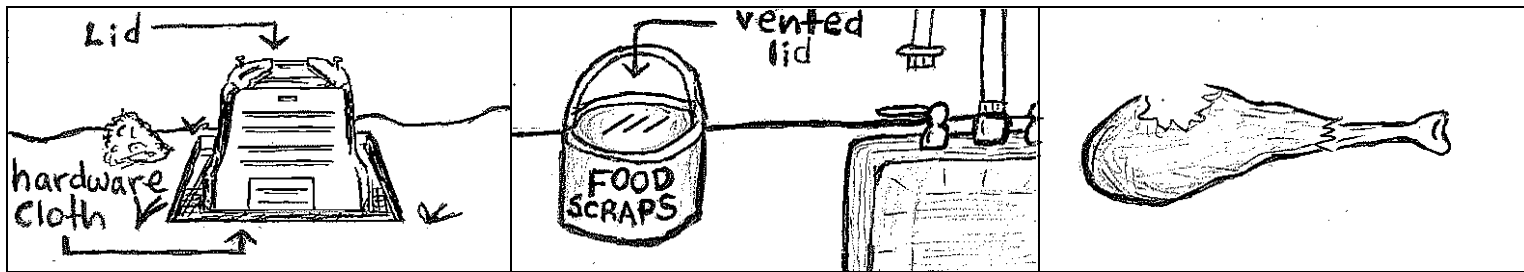


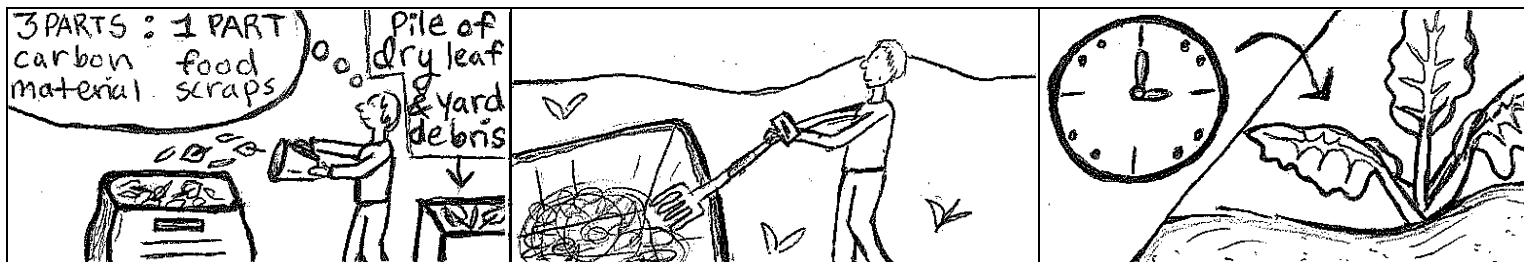
## Basics of Backyard Composting



**1)** Use a compost bin that is at least 3x3x3ft. Use a secure lid and cover openings (including the bottom!) with ¼" hardware cloth to keep animals out.

**2)** Collect food scraps in a container in your kitchen, and empty it into your bin when full. Minimize odors by using a vented lid and emptying it often.

**3)** It's okay to send meat and bones to a commercial composter or the trash if you are composting your other food scraps at home.

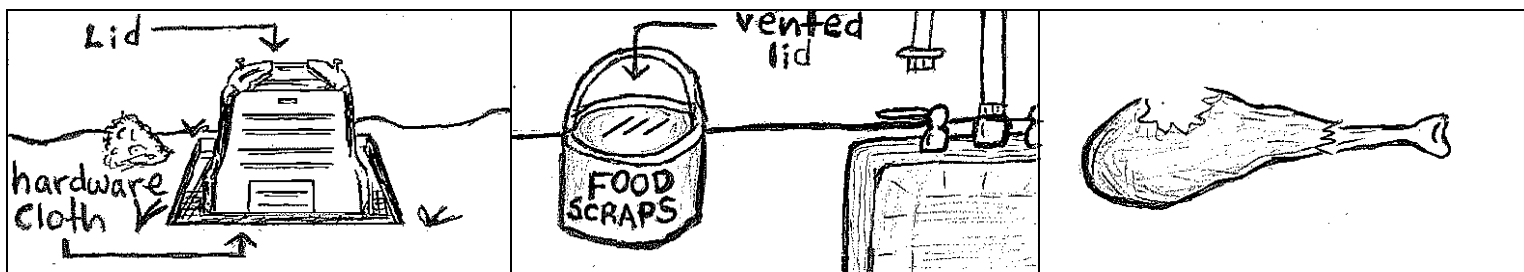


**4)** Add a layer of a shredded paper, dry leaves, dry grass clippings, or chipped brush on top of food scraps. These carbon-rich materials will speed decomposition and reduce odors.

**5)** Use a pitchfork or shovel to mix and turn the pile about once a week. This gives working compost bugs the air they need to turn food scraps into usable compost.

**6)** After your pile looks dark and soil-like, and material is no longer recognizable, let it sit for at least three months to cure. Then your compost is ready to use in the garden!

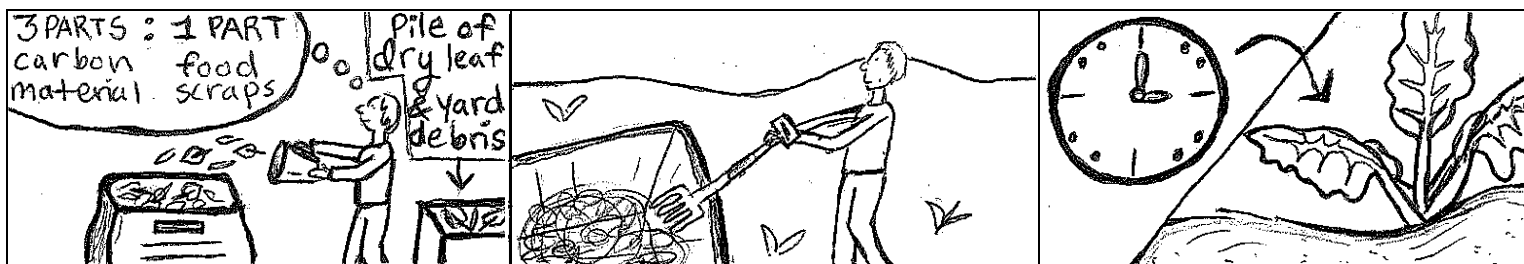
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Waste Management & Prevention Division

[vtrecycles.com](http://vtrecycles.com)

(802) 828-1138

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**Now you know the basics...want to learn more?**

1. Contact your Solid Waste Management Entity. Find yours at [802recycles.com](http://802recycles.com)
2. See Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's Composting Guide at [cvswmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/home-composting.pdf](http://cvswmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/home-composting.pdf)
3. Become a Vermont Master Composter: [uvm.edu/mastergardener/master-composter/](http://uvm.edu/mastergardener/master-composter/)



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