

How Should I Collect Stuff for Composting?

There are lots of ways to collect your materials for composting,

from simple...



...to snazzy.



Where to keep it?

That's a matter of preference. Some people like a container on the counter, where they can easily toss in scraps. Some put it under the sink. And some keep their compost in the fridge or the freezer—which takes up space, but eliminates odors and bugs.

What kind of container? What size?

Again, no rules.

- You can use something you already have, like an empty yogurt tub or a coffee can or a pail.
- If you want something that looks attractive, there are canisters designed for compost scraps; some have built-in filters to control odors. [The Wirecutter](#) has recommended models.
- Use any size container that works for you—depending on how much cooking you do, and how frequently you plan to empty it.
- If you keep your scraps in the fridge or freezer, you can just use a plastic or paper bag. (Note: Plastic bags can NOT go in the compost bin. Paper bags can, but please tear them in pieces when you dump your scraps, so they will break down faster.)
- Whatever container you choose, you may want to put several strips of torn newspaper at the bottom to soak up liquids and make clean-up easier—especially if you're not emptying it daily. (The newspaper can go into the bin along with your scraps.)