**HOME COMPOSTING MATERIALS**

**COMPOST TIP**

Chopping or shredding these items helps speed up the composting process.

For best results, composters can mix in 2 to 3 volumes of “brown” material with each volume of “green” material.

**Carbon-Rich “Browns”**

- Brown leaves & yard waste
  - Brush & twigs (1/2” in diameter or less)
  - Cardboard (dry and clean)
  - Egg cartons (shredded)
  - Newspaper
  - Nuts & nut shells (but not black walnuts)
  - Paper towels
  - Pine cones & pine needles
  - Sawdust & shavings (from non-treated wood)
  - Straw & hay
  - Wood chips

**Nitrogen-Rich “Greens”**

- Green leaves & yard waste
  - Coffee beans, grounds & used filters
  - Dirt & potting soil
  - Egg shells
  - Flowers & yard plants
  - Fruit, including cores & rinds
  - Grass clippings
  - Gourds & pumpkins
  - Melons and melon rinds
  - Tea leaves & tea bags
  - Vegetables, greens & legumes

**Not for Home Composting**

- Biodegradable forks, spoons & knives
- Branches or logs more than 6” in diameter
- Charcoal briquettes or briquette ash
- Cigar & cigarette ashes
- Coffee or beverage cups
- Diapers
- Dairy products (butter, milk, cheese, etc.)
- Invasive weeds and plants
- Meat (cooked or raw) & bones
- Oils, greases & fats (including snack chips)
- Pet food
- Pet or human waste
- Pizza boxes with grease or cheese on them
- Recyclables (glass, plastic, metal cans. etc.)
- Sawdust from treated wood
- Trash (wrappers, packaging, etc.)
- Used take-out containers & Styrofoam shells
- Wood treated with varnish or paint

For more, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) & search “compost,” or consult other DNR publications, **Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits & Home Composting: The Basic Composter.**