



NLA Composting Guide

Great for the Environment – Makes Garbage Easier



Protecting our natural environment is at the heart of our NLA community values. Composting is one of the easiest, most rewarding habits you can adopt to practice environmental stewardship while simplifying your everyday trash management.

Why Start Composting?

- **Odor-Free Trash:** Putting food waste, coffee grounds, tissues, and paper towels into a compost bin eliminates the primary source of foul smells and insects in your trash. Your burnable garbage stays clean, dry, and easier to manage.
- **Dramatic Waste Reduction:** Organic scraps make up a heavy portion of household waste. Diverting them away from the trash significantly lowers the volume and weight of your burnable garbage bags.
- **Nutrient Renewal:** Instead of sending organic matter to an incinerator, composting returns rich nutrients directly back to the soil, nourishing our forest ecosystem.
- **Official Support:** Shinanomachi City actively encourages residents to compost as a core waste-reduction initiative. The city offers residents financial subsidies to cover a portion of the purchase price for compost bins.



How to Set Up Your Compost Bin

1. **Use an Enclosed, Wildlife-Proof Bin**
Because NLA is in a forest environment, avoid open-air composting to prevent attracting animals. Choose an enclosed container with a secure lid. Available at hardware stores.
2. **Balance "Greens" and "Browns"**
Efficient decomposition requires a balanced mix of nitrogen-rich and carbon-rich materials:
 - Greens (Nitrogen): Fruit and vegetables, coffee grounds, tea leaves and food scraps.
 - Browns (Carbon): Dry leaves, paper towels, tissues, and shredded paper.
 - **Best Practice:** Every time you add wet kitchen waste (greens), cover it with a layer of dry materials (browns) to control moisture and prevent odors.
3. **Secure and Maintain**
Keep the lid firmly fastened to keep animals out, including especially crows. Turn, stir or mix the contents occasionally if your bin design permits, to speed up decomposition and prevent odors.

Get Assistance & Start Today

For advice on choosing a bin, balancing your compost materials, or other questions, the **NLA Garbage Collection Committee** is here to help you get started smoothly.

Composting experts happy to assist you: Sheyen Ikeda #106, Paul Shew #130

Together, let's keep Lake Nojiri clean, green, and sustainable!