

What items can I put in my NatureMill?

Deposit almost any biodegradable materials, summarized in the chart below. Cut or shred materials into small pieces to aid in composting. Add a mix of "green" and "brown" items for best results. All of this information is listed in the instructions. Add a tablespoon of ordinary baking soda now and then to reduce normal food acidity.

RECOMMENDED materials	NOT RECOMMENDED materials
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Add a mix of "green" and "brown" items:

"Green" items:

- fruit, vegetable scraps
- meat, chicken, fish
- fish bones, shrimp tails
- cheese, eggs, egg shells
- tea leaves
- grass & plant clippings

"Brown" items:

- sawdust, wood shavings (untreated, unpainted wood)
- bread, rice, pasta, grains
- nuts, nut shells, straw
- dry flowers, small yard leaves
- coffee grounds

- pourable liquid, chemicals, soap, cosmetics, medicine
- plastic, metal, glass, rubber, alcohol, cigarettes
- office paper, newspaper, magazines
- hard or fibrous items: chicken & steak bones, lobster & clam shells, wine corks, avocado & peach pits, corn cobs & husks, coconut shells, lemongrass
- diseased foods, human waste, disposable diapers
- limit very acidic items to 2 lbs (900g) per load: oranges, grapes, berries, plums, pickles, tomatoes
- 3-4 piece limit for lemon, lime, grapefruit, pineapple

With experience, you will get a feel of what composts well and what does not. A good rule of thumb is that any material that you can recognize in the final compost should be avoided in the future, or cut in smaller pieces first. Note that certain materials, such as meat, fish, and dairy, can be used in NatureMill (unlike in backyard compost piles where rats, raccoons, and bears can be a problem).

Some items compost better than others. Coffee grinds decompose easily. We have had mixed experiences with very dense items, such as very stale bread or hard candy. When in doubt, add just a little and then check the end result carefully!