

Compost Moisture Balancing Guide

Moisture is one of the most important factors in composting. This guide will help you test, balance, and maintain the right level of dampness in your compost pile. Use it as a quick reference to keep your compost healthy and thriving.

Moisture Test: The Squeeze Method

Take a handful of compost from the center of the pile and squeeze firmly:

- Too Dry – Crumbles apart, no clumping.
- Too Wet – Water drips or oozes out.
- Just Right – Holds together like a wrung-out sponge, no dripping.

Quick Fixes

If your compost isn't balanced, try these solutions:

For a Dry Pile:

- Sprinkle water evenly while turning (don't flood).
- Add fresh greens (food scraps, grass clippings).
- Cover pile with tarp or leaves to trap moisture.
- Place pile in partial shade during hot weather.

For a Wet Pile:

- Turn pile to fluff and add oxygen.
- Mix in dry browns (leaves, shredded cardboard, paper).
- Improve drainage with a base layer of sticks.
- Cover pile to shield from heavy rain.



Seasonal Checklist (Zone 9)

- Spring – Watch for compaction from rains; fluff often.
- Summer – Water weekly; shade pile to slow evaporation.
- Fall – Shred leaves before adding to avoid soggy mats.
- Winter – Use a tarp to keep moisture steady through mild freezes.

Journal Prompt

Where do you sense dryness or over-saturation in your life? How might God be inviting you to receive just enough living water to bring balance and renewal?

Grace Note

Friend, compost moisture doesn't have to be perfect. It simply needs attention. Check, adjust, and trust the process. Your life is like that pile—sometimes dry, sometimes soggy, always in need of God's steady hand. May you find grace in the balance, knowing He is faithful to renew what feels lifeless.

