

Small-Space Composting Checklist

This checklist will guide you through the steps of starting and maintaining a composting system, even if you only have a small space. Print it out, keep it near your compost bin or pail, and use it as a quick reminder and encouragement.

What to Compost

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- Herb stems and wilted flowers
- Fresh grass clippings
- Shredded paper and cardboard
- Dry leaves and straw
- Paper towels/napkins (plain, unbleached)

What to Avoid

- Meat, dairy, and oily foods
- Pet waste
- Diseased plants
- Glossy or coated paper
- Large woody branches (unless shredded)

Composting Methods for Small Spaces

- Countertop Compost Pail – collect scraps for transfer
- Worm Bin (Vermicomposting) – use red wigglers indoors or on a balcony
- Bokashi Bucket – ferment scraps indoors, then bury or mix with soil
- Compact Outdoor Tumbler – small, neat, and easy to rotate

Tips for Success

- Maintain a 2:1 ratio of browns to greens.
- Keep compost moist like a wrung-out sponge.
- Stir or rotate often to add oxygen.
- Cover food scraps with browns to reduce odor and pests.
- Store scraps in the freezer until ready to compost.





Troubleshooting

- Smells bad: Add more browns and stir.
- Too dry: Mist lightly with water.
- Too wet: Add shredded paper or cardboard.
- Fruit flies: Freeze scraps or bury them deeper under browns.
- Worms escaping: Bin may be too hot, too wet, or lacking air.



Journal Prompt

What “small scraps” in your life—things you’ve dismissed as waste or weakness—might God be transforming into nourishment for you and others?



Grace Note

Dear friend, remember: you don’t need a perfect system or a big yard to begin composting. All you need is willingness. Start with a jar, a bucket, or a bin. Let the soil remind you of God’s renewing work—He takes what is broken down and makes it beautiful again.

