Composting is easy!

To make compost, just follow these simple steps:

1. **Add three parts "browns"…**
   Fall leaves, straw, salt marsh hay, shredded paper and cardboard (newspaper, paper towels, paper plates, paper bags), chipped brush, sawdust, pine needles (pine needles should not make up more than 10% of total material in pile).

2. **Mix or layer materials.**
   After every 12" or so, add a few shovelfuls of rich soil or compost.

3. **Keep it damp and aerated.**
   Wait a few months, and voila…black gold!

**DO NOT ADD:**
- Meat, bones, fat, grease, oils
- Peanut butter
- Dairy products
- Cooked food with sauces or butter
- Dog and cat manure
- Diseased plants
- Weeds gone to seed
- Weeds that spread by roots and runners (vines)

Prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection