

What To Do If...

Trouble Shooting Chart

Symptoms	Problem	Solution
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The compost smells of ammonia.

Too much nitrogen in the pile.

Add brown leaves and mix them into the pile.

The compost smells like rotten eggs.

Not enough air (anaerobic).

Aerate the pile. Turn for several days until smell is gone.

The centre of the pile is dry.

Not enough water.

Moisten materials while turning the pile.

The compost is damp and warm in the middle but nowhere else.

Too small.

Collect material and mix old ingredients into a new pile.

Compost heap is attracting animals and other pests.

Meat scraps and fat have been added, or food scraps are not completely covered by soil.

Fasten lid tightly. Do not add meat or fat. Bury food wastes under layer of soil.