



## **Reducing Conflict where we grow: Composting**

For more information visit WildSafeBC's website at <https://wildsafebc.com/a-wildsafe-yard/>

WildSafeBC strives to learn and to share about how we can reduce human-wildlife conflicts in all of our day-to-day activities. We must all think about how we live, work, play and grow with respect to wildlife.

Where and how we “LIVE” is one of the greatest opportunities and challenges for reducing human-wildlife conflict. Our homes and yards are where we spend the bulk of our time and it is here that we are most protective of ‘our’ space. It is also where we create so many attractants and opportunities for wildlife to get into conflict with us.

For some species, it is just a matter of properly managing the attractant, composting for example. Composting is a very opportunistic and fun way to making soil. The key to a healthy compost is ensuring equal amounts of brown and green materials.

### **Here are some Bear Smart methods on how to compost:**

1. Layer your greens, such as kitchen scraps and fresh grass clippings with no more than 10 cm of browns, such as dried leaves, grasses, shredded newspaper and cardboard.
2. Do not add fish, meat, fat, oils, un-rinsed eggshells or any cooked food.
3. Add oxygen by turning regularly.
4. Avoid overloading the compost in fruit season - freeze material and add gradually.
5. Avoid adding cereals or grains.
6. No meat, dairy, or bones, if you want to manage your compot correctly.
7. Use equal parts of brown and green material
8. Do not overload the compost with fruit - if need be, store material indoors (or freeze) and add gradually
9. Manage your compost properly and turn regularly.

\*\* Ideally you will use a rat-proof composter, but lacking that, turn you compost on a regular basis - right to the bottom to ensure that rats cannot nest underneath the compost. Line the bottom of your compost with wire mesh to exclude rats.

Residents are reminded that if you see or have issues with any wildlife in your compost, please call your Local Coordinator, Danica Roussy at 250-908-8101 or email her at [cranbrook@wildsafebc.com](mailto:cranbrook@wildsafebc.com).