

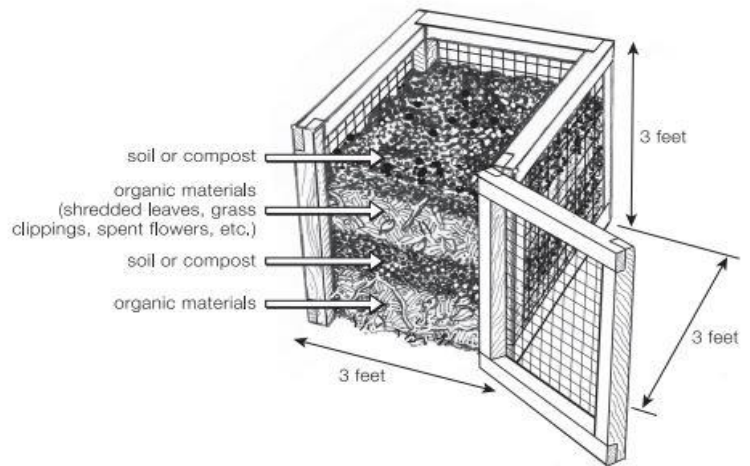
**Birmingham  
Spring 2016 Newsletter**

**Home Composting**

With the fall season approaching, everyone prepares for cleaning up extra leaves around their home and yard. Did you know that those leaves and other yard clippings can be used to make your own fertilizer? The natural process of decomposition transforms leaves, grass, bark, and other natural materials into a soil enriching substance. Here are some tips on how to start your own home composting pile:

**Materials for Composting**

- Shredded Leaves
- Grass Clippings
- Spent Flowers & Garden Clippings
- Young Seedless Weeds
- Clean Egg Shells
- Coffee Grounds, Filters, & Tea Bags
- Old Fertilizer
- Shredded Bark
- Potting Soil



**Building the Compost Pile**

- Obtain a compost bin that retains moisture. Plastic bins are highly recommended.
- Add a layer of organic material such as shredded leaves, grass, or other garden clippings and then lightly water the layer.
- Add a 2 to 3 inch layer of garden soil or compost mixture.
- Continue layering, watering and mixing.
- Make sure to turn the pile once a week or once a month with the finished compost being available in 6 months.

For more information on home composting, please visit [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org).