

COMPOST IN A BOTTLE

Things you will need:

1. An empty 2-liter bottle
2. A scissors (for cutting the bottle)
3. A tool that can be used to make holes in the bottle (sharp scissors, a nail,...)
4. Dirt (from outside, *not* potting soil)
5. Organic materials
 - a. Food scraps (fruits/vegetables that don't look fresh enough to eat, any parts of fruits and vegetables that are leftover, old bread,...)
 - b. Dried leaves
 - c. Shredded newspaper
6. A spray bottle (or, if you don't have one, use a plastic water bottle and poke small holes in the cap with a needle or push pin)
7. A flat dish to hold our composter

Steps:

1. Rinse the bottle out and peel off any labels (hot water helps!)
2. Use the scissors to cut the top off of the bottle (the hole needs to be big enough to put our materials in), set aside the top part of the bottle you just cut off (HAVE AN ADULT HELP YOU CUT THE BOTTLE)
3. Use the scissors or nail to poke holes in the sides and bottom of the bottle (the compost needs oxygen)
4. Put the bottle on the flat dish and start adding ingredients
 - a. First, add a layer of dirt
 - b. Moisten the dirt using the spray bottle
 - c. Add a layer of food scraps (again spray with the spray bottle)
 - d. Add another layer of dirt (moisten with spray bottle)
 - e. Add dried leaves and shredded newspaper (again make this layer damp with the spray bottle)
5. Once you're done adding your ingredients to the composter, turn the top of the bottle (the part that you cut off) upside down on top of the bottle. You will use this as a funnel in the next few weeks in order to add water to the composter (using your spray bottle). Make sure the compost stays moist!
6. Cover the top of the composter with a dish towel or a piece of scrap fabric when you are done adding your ingredients
7. Place the composter in a spot where it is exposed to the sunlight
8. Check the composter every few days to observe the decomposition process and to make sure the compost stays damp
9. Once or twice a week stir the contents in your composter by taking off the top
10. You can add more ingredients to the composter as time goes on, but keep in mind that new materials will take time to decompose

Feel free to add other organic materials to the composter but don't add any dairy (milk, cheese,...) or meat. These will smell super bad once they start decomposing.