

Planetary Wellbeing

- Cut Pollution & Toxicity
- Ensure Animal Wellness
- Guard Water Resources**
 - Home Irrigation
 - Indoor Water Consumption
 - **Landscape Design**
 - Low-Water Consumerism
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- Ocean Awareness
- Protect Biodiversity
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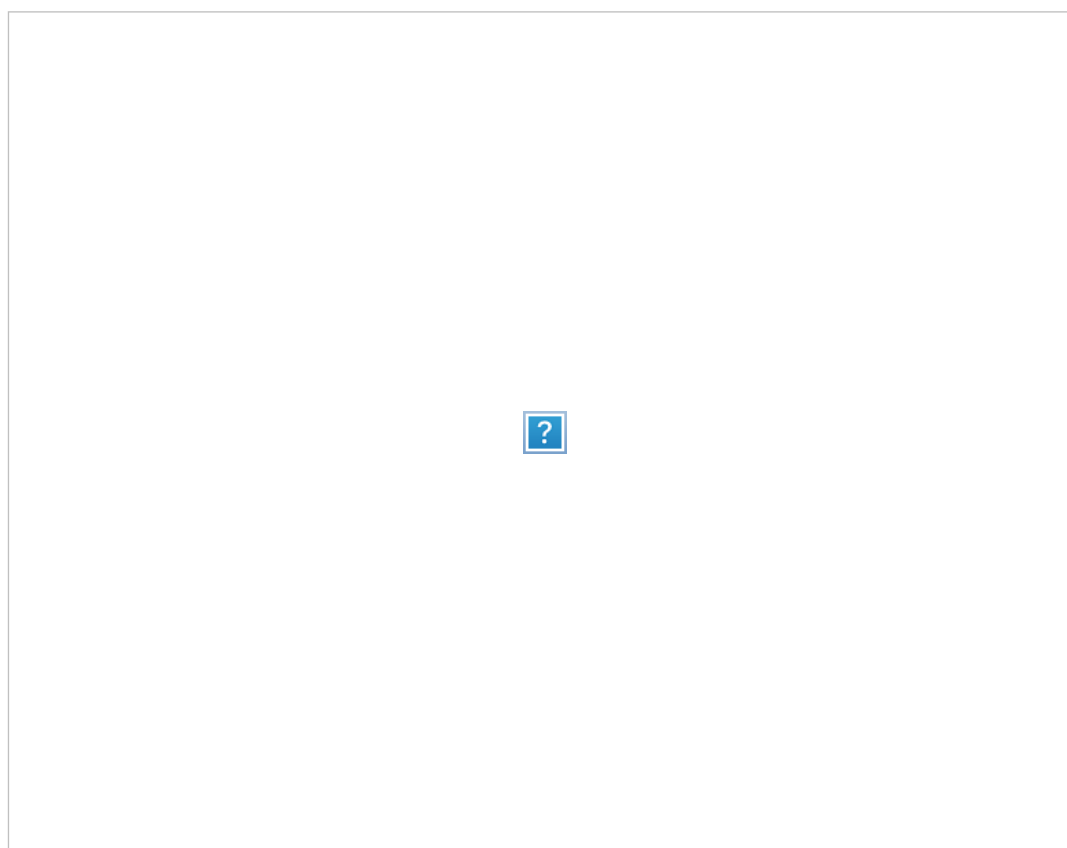


Save Water Outdoors by Using Homemade Compost

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For most of us, irrigation is a necessity in order to keep our **vegetable gardens**, lawns, and flower beds growing and looking their best. As a result, our **water footprint** as Americans is pretty big. The good news is there are plenty of simple, eco-friendly ways to cultivate your outdoor landscape in order to save water. Certainly choosing native plants, using drip irrigation, and mulching are all good ways to reduce outdoor water use, but one of the best ways to save water is to use compost. Not only does composting reduce your backyard water use, it also saves valuable natural resources, cuts your landscape's toxicity, and fosters a healthy, vibrant ecosystem.

Using compost is one of the simplest ways you can green-up your backyard, and easy solutions to everyday problems are at the core of Hearts. As Hart (our owner) is often heard saying, "If we can achieve little things like this, then we're one step closer to solving some of our biggest environmental problems." So make this simple adjustment to how you handle your food waste to have a big impact on your piece of ecosystem. We're confident you'll love all of the eco benefits!



Quick Guide: Why Composting Saves Water

- **Daily outdoor water use in the US:** The US consumes 26 billion gallons of water per day and 30% of this, 120 gallons per person, is used for outdoor purposes.^[i] ^[ii]
- **What is compost?** Compost is essentially a composition of decayed organic matter (food, grass clippings, leaves, etc.) that looks much like soil. Compost is rich in beneficial biological organisms, nutrients, and bacteria that provide multiple benefits for backyard ecosystems.^[iii]
- **Compost cuts water use by 30%:** Adding compost to your garden or landscape helps to save water by providing a natural barrier against evaporation – soil that is rich in organic matter retains water much more readily than poor quality soil. ^[iv] As a result, compost decreases the land's need for water by 30% on average.^[v]
- **Compost is super food for gardens:** Composting also fosters a vibrant, living soil ecosystem (unlike chemical fertilizers that stifle and kill beneficial living organisms in soil).^[vi] Additionally, since compost fixes carbon it helps fight global warming, ^[vii] and eliminates the need for fossil fuel fertilizers which are incredibly energy intensive to manufacture.^[viii]

Take Action! Achieve Big Water Savings through Composting

1. **Basics of using compost to save water:** Find out what you need to know to effectively use compost to save water on your landscape via the Saving Water Partnership's [Soil Compost/Mulch Guide](#) which includes a calculator to determine how much compost you need.
2. **Make your own compost from kitchen scraps:** Upcycling kitchen scraps is one way to reduce your food waste, fight climate change, and create your own rich fertilizer at home. There are many styles of creating home composting systems in your backyard so you can choose the format that best suits your yard and your personal preferences. If you have limited space or no outdoor space, indoor composting options are also increasingly easy.
3. **Recycle bathroom waste with a composting toilet:** Composting toilets have been around for decades. The system will contain and process human waste, break it down, and transform it to humus. This pile can be removed and added to the compost bin. Composting toilets also help reduce water and power consumption in homes. Check out brands like [Biolet](#).
4. **Support landfill bans on compostable items:** Organic matter wastes landfill space and is a misuse of precious resources. Landfill bans on organic matter help to save landfill space and resources, but only 22 states have a landfill ban. ^[ix] Get involved with the [US Composting Council](#) (USCC) which gives funding so that pro-composting organizations per state can hire a lobbyist that will fight efforts to repeal landfill bans. Additionally, check out the [Change.org](#) petition asking the Waste Management Inc. to stop lobbying for the repeal of state laws that prohibit yard trimmings from being accepted into landfills.^[x]

Dig Deeper: How Composting Can Save Water

- Check out this discussion on [Compost in Landscaping Applications](#) for even more information on the link between food recycling and irrigation.
- This is a great [compost calculator](#) to help you determine how much compost your garden needs.
- The US Composting Council has compiled [a directory of suppliers](#) for composting needs.

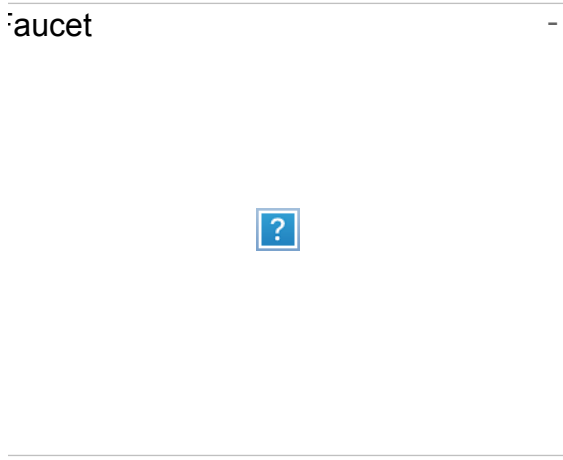
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