



# Growing Out The Box: 18-Day Composting Challenge 2026

## "The Carbon Bank" Edition

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

YouTube Handle: \_\_\_\_\_ (Required for Prize Entry)

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### PART 1: The Ingredients (Materials Log)

*Fill this out **before** you build. If you need help later, this section helps us troubleshoot!*



#### THE CARBON BANK (Browns)

(Dried leaves, cardboard, pine straw, paper, sawdust)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



#### THE GREEN GROCER (Greens)

(Grass clippings, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds, manure, green garden waste)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



### MOISTURE & ACTIVATORS

- **Water Source:** ☐ Hose/Tap ☐ Rainwater

- **Kickstarters (Optional):** ☐ Old Compost ☐ Comfrey ☐ Manure Tea ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## PART 2: The Process Log

Use your 20-inch thermometer probe to measure the center of the pile.

Goal: Maintain heat between 130°F - 160°F (55°C - 70°C).

Day	Action Required	Temp (°F)	Turned?	Observations (Smell, Moisture, Steam?)
1	<b>BUILD DAY:</b> Layer Browns & Greens. Water well.		N/A	<i>Pile size must be min 3x3x3 ft</i>
2	No Turn. Let it cook.		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
3	No Turn. Let it cook.		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
4	<b>FIRST TURN!</b> Mix outside to inside.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
5	Turn Pile + Check Moisture		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
6	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
7	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
8	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
9	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
10	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
11	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
12	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
13	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
14	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
15	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
16	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
17	Turn Pile		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
18	<b>FINAL DAY:</b> Assessment		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<i>Is it dark, crumbly, and earthy?</i>

## Troubleshooting Cheat Sheet

*Use this if your numbers look wrong in the log above.*

- **Pile smells like Ammonia?** Too much Nitrogen (Greens). **Fix:** Add sawdust or shredded paper when turning.
- **Pile smells like Rotten Eggs?** Anaerobic (No oxygen) or too wet. **Fix:** Turn immediately to add air; add dry browns.
- **Pile is Cold (Under 110°F)?** Pile too small, too dry, or not enough Greens. **Fix:** Add water, add fresh grass/manure, or increase pile size.
- **Pile is Too Hot (Over 160°F)?** Danger zone! **Fix:** Water heavily and turn immediately to cool down (prevent ash/white mold).



## Official Entry Rules

To be eligible for one of the **5 Prizes**:

1. **Download & Print** this sheet.
2. **Fill it out** completely (Materials & Daily Log).
3. **Document** your journey! You must post video updates or photos on YouTube.
4. **Tag It:** You must use the hashtag **#18daycomposting2026** in your video title or description.

Visit [growingoutthebox.com](https://growingoutthebox.com) for full details.