

Hot Compost Pile Maturity Assessment Checklist

Physical Assessment

- ☐ Pile has reduced in size
- ☐ Original ingredients are no longer recognizable
- ☐ Material is crumbly and loose
- ☐ Moisture is similar to wrung-out sponge

Temperature

- ☐ Pile has cooled to ambient temperature

Color & Smell

- ☐ Color is deep brown or black
- ☐ Smells earthy, not sour or rotten

Time

- ☐ At least 6–12 weeks of composting completed

Other

- ☐ No heat remains on turning
- ☐ Stable: No re-heating after turning