

Composting

Adult responsibilities

ADULTS NEED TO MAKE SURE:

- Work area has no hazards
- Child has been fitted for a respirator and shown how to use it
- Child has no insect allergies
- Child changes outer clothing and washes hands after job



Can your child do this job?

ABILITY

Can the child lift safely?
(See "Lifting")

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children must be able to lift correctly to do this job safely.

Are the tools the right size for the child?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! The wrong size tools can cause injury.

Do the materials the child will lift weigh less than 10-15% of his or her body weight?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children lifting more than 15% of their body weight are more likely to injure their backs.

Can the child recognize a hazard and solve the problem without getting upset?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children must be able to recognize hazards, think about how to respond, and stay calm to prevent injury.

TRAINING

Has an adult demonstrated composting on site?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! Children learn best when shown how to do the job at the work site.

Has the child shown he or she can do the job safely 4 to 5 times under close supervision?

- Yes.
- No. **!** CAUTION! An adult must watch constantly until the child shows he or she can do the job.

SUPERVISION

Can an adult supervise as recommended?

- Yes.
- No. **STOP** STOP! The right level of supervision is key to preventing injuries.

Main Hazards



Dust, mold and organic particles can cause breathing problems



Weight of soil and compost can strain muscles

Remember



Good handwashing



Respirator



Leather gloves

Supervision

What's the right amount?

Here are suggestions—but remember, it depends on the child.

Age 10-11:

LIMIT job to 20 minutes and have child collect materials to be composted. **WATCH** nearly constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

Age 12-13:

WATCH constantly at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **CHECK** every few minutes.

Age 14-15:

CHECK every few minutes at first. When the child shows he or she can do the job, **LEAVE** for 15 to 30 minutes.