

Tips to make compost at home



39% of the waste contained in rubbish bags is **organic food waste** (2016 Waste Audit). **We promote composting as a natural and convenient way to recycle, and to save on rubbish disposal costs.**

The composting process is easy to learn, but requires a little bit of technique which comes with practice. Breaking down waste requires the right amount of moisture, heat, soil, aeration and the correct mix of materials. For a healthy compost mixture, you need a good balance of these four ingredients:

Greens + Browns + Water + Air = Compost

These are household waste materials that can be composted:

GREENS (high nitrogen content)

- Vegetable scraps
- Fruit scraps
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea leaves and bags
- Lawn clippings
- Plant clippings
- Dead flowers
- Fresh weeds

BROWNS (high carbon content)

- Tree clippings (small twigs and branches)
- Straw and untreated sawdust
- Shredded paper towels, paper serviettes and tissues
- Shredded paper and cardboard
- Egg shells
- Breads, grains and pasta
- Dried leaves

YES
✓



The following are household waste materials that **cannot** be composted:

- Meat, fish or poultry
- Bones
- Weeds
- Plant residue with chemical spray
- Cooking oils or fats
- Dairy products
- Wood or timber
- Glass, metals or plastics
- Styrofoam
- Liquids
- Hazardous substances
- Dog or cat waste

NO
X

Tips to start making compost:

1. Purchase a compost bin from your local hardware store or make one yourself.
2. The compost heap needs to be large enough to maintain heat.
3. Position the bin in a semi-sheltered area, on grass with good drainage.
4. Encourage worms into the compost by breaking up the soil where the bin will be placed.
5. Start with a layer of coarse materials, such as branches or twigs.
6. The 'add-as-you-go' method of composting is often preferred because you can regularly add the daily kitchen waste to the pile. Remember to keep food scraps covered with a brown layer of grass clipping, weeds and leaves.
7. Mix your materials by adding 2 parts green to 1 part brown.
8. Turn the compost every few weeks.

When ready, you can use the compost on your garden to grow healthier, more productive plants and it reduces the need to use chemical fertilisers in your garden. Get the family involved. Children enjoy recycling, gardening and learning how to care for the environment.

