

Compost

Compost is made by gathering plant material, such as leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable peels, into a pile or bin and letting it rot away naturally. Rotting takes place when waste is broken down by a range of different organisms including: bacteria, fungi, worms and insects. When this process is complete we are left with a brown crumbly mixture that looks rather like soil and smells pleasantly earthy.

Why

- Recycling yard and kitchen wastes into compost puts organic matter back in the soil
- Composting reduces the garbage going to landfills
- Composting improves the condition of the soil and helps plants grow and stay healthy
- Composting bins often provide homes to garden wildlife like worms, beetles and toads

Compost these materials:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Egg shells
- Fallen leaves
- Shredded paper
- Coffee grounds
- Lawn clippings

Do Not compost these materials:

- Meat products
- Dairy products
- Rocks
- Plastic
- Cat litter

Step One: Place your compost bin

Buy or make a compost bin.

Place your bin on a level, well-drained spot

The bin should be in a partially sunny spot

Step Two – Put these items in your compost bin

Good things you can compost include vegetable peelings, fruit waste, teabags, crushed egg shells, plant prunings and grass clippings

Other composting material include shredded paper and fallen leaves

Step Three – Keep these out of the compost bin

- No meat products
- No dairy products
- No cat litter or dog poo
- Recycle plastics, glass and metals separately

Step Four – Making Good Compost

- Balance the greens (vegetable & fruit waste, grass cuttings) with the browns (fallen leaves and shredded paper)
- Stir the compost weekly to help break material down quicker

Step Five – Using your compost

- Finished compost is a dark brown, almost black soil-like layer that you'll find at the bottom of the compost bin.
- Spread the finished compost into the garden or flower beds to improve the soil.