

# MAKE YOUR OWN COMPOST

Composting food scraps, garden waste, and other ingredients helps to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in our landfill. As a result, it helps us reduce the amount of methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) that gets released into the atmosphere.

And if saving the planet isn't enough, composting will do wonders to improve the quality of your garden soil. Whether you sprinkle compost on the surface of the soil or work it in, your plants and trees will grow healthier and stronger.



# A recipe for compost

Compost is like nature's way of recycling. By reusing organic materials from around your home, you can make a nutrient-rich soil that your plants will love.

All you need are three basic ingredients:

1

## Browns.

(e.g. dried leaves, twigs and even newspaper, cardboard and egg cartons)



2

## Greens.

(these include your food scraps like vegetables and fruit, as well as things like grass clippings)



3

## Water

(this helps the organic matter break down more easily)



# Before you get started,

it's important to understand more about what to feed your compost to get the right balance of ingredients.

Microorganisms live in your compost to help these materials decompose. The brown materials produce carbon or energy for these organisms, while the green materials provide nitrogen, which acts as protein or food. It's a good idea to break any materials into smaller pieces before adding them to your compost.

Make sure to turn your compost regularly. Turning the compost will let air in and help with decomposition. Only water occasionally, otherwise you might end up with a swamp instead of a soil.

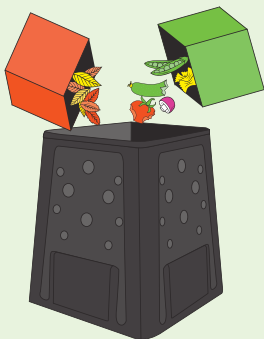


# Using your bin

- 1 Put your bin in a warm and easily accessible spot in your garden. On bare soil or grass, with good drainage is best. Your compost bin has three anchoring lugs per side - be sure to press these firmly into the ground to make it as stable as possible.



2



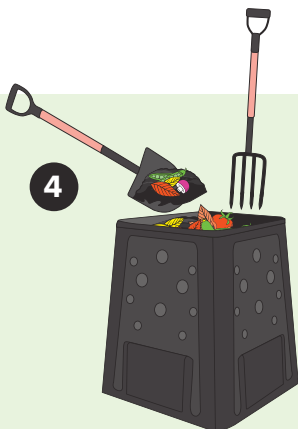
Add your organic material – you'll want an equal amount of brown and green materials. You can also add some lime or compost maker to give your compost an extra boost.

3

Add some water.



4



Mix/turn your compost a few times to let air in.



# DO put these things in your compost bin



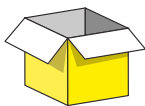
## Fruit / fruit peel (not citrus)

It's all good – some peels may take longer to decompose than others but don't worry.



## Vegetables

Add as many as you like but try to avoid onions and garlic. These are very acidic.



## Cardboard

Adding cardboard from time to time will help your compost but we recommend recycling the rest.



## Newspaper

Only use in small amounts and make sure you break it into smaller pieces first.



## Manure

Helps to speed up the composting process. Only use farm manure such as pig, chicken, sheep, goat, horse or cow. Avoid dog and cat manure.





# DO put these things in your compost bin



## Grass clippings

Be careful to add very thin layers or mix them in with other compost ingredients, otherwise they'll become slimy and matted down, removing air from the pile.



## Leaves

But be careful to watch out for any diseased plant material – best to put that in your green waste bin if you have one.



## Dirty/ wastewater

You want to make sure your compost stays nice and moist but don't over water it.



## Coffee grounds

Your compost will love them – especially if you've got worms.



## Egg shells

Throw them in – but crush them up so they break down more quickly.



## Pinecones and needles

Use sparingly as they can be too acidic.

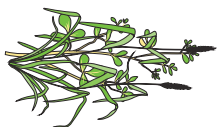


## Dryer lint

Great for keeping in the moisture.

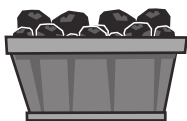


# DON'T put these things in your compost bin



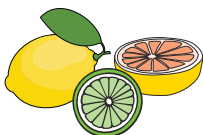
## Weeds

Weeds are very resilient. Unlike at our Council green waste facility, the temperature of your home compost may not get hot enough to kill the weed seeds.



## Ash

Ash or coal products can throw off your compost's PH balance and sometimes can contain nasty chemicals.



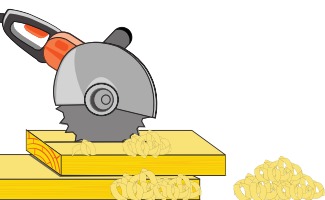
## Lemons, limes and grapefruit

Citrus fruits can be very acidic so avoid them where you can.



## Dairy

Foods like milk and cheese have no real nutritional value for your compost and can attract pests.



## Sawdust

Wood products are high in carbon so too much will throw out your compost's natural balance, but it's OK in small doses.



## Meat and bones

Your compost is vegetarian.



## Seafood

Nobody likes a fishy smell... except pests.

# PALMY

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