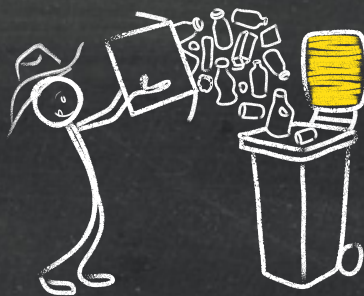


DIY COMPOSTING



HOW TO COMPOST



Step 1

Choose a warm position outside where the compost has direct contact with dirt or soil.

Step 2

Place coarse twigs on the bottom of the compost to help with drainage and air flow.

Step 3

Organise your organic waste in a bin or pile. Put kitchen waste on the compost heap, but NO meat, bread or dairy foods.

Step 4

Layer your compost, alternating between nitrogen-rich green layers (e.g. lawn clippings, weeds, kitchen scraps, manure) and carbon-rich brown layers (e.g. dried leaves, branches, straw, shredded paper, egg shells).

Step 5

Keep your pile moist (not soaking wet) with tea and coffee grounds, or grey water from the kitchen.

Shred your scraps as fine as possible.

Step 6

Ensure your pile is aerated by turning it with a garden fork or compost turner to allow air in.

Step 7

Keep your pile covered – this will ensure it doesn't dry out or get too soggy in the rain.

COMPOSTING REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF ORGANIC WASTE GOING INTO LANDFILL.

Composting converts it into a useful by product that's ideal for a garden fertiliser.

HELP! I HAVE A COMPOST PROBLEM

You need the right balance of moisture, heat, air and materials to have a successful compost environment. Here are some common problems and suggested solutions:

NOT BREAKING DOWN

- » Add water
- » Add equal amounts of veggie scraps or fresh lawn clippings with fallen leaves or straw
- » Create better air circulation by punching holes in your bin

SMELLY

- » Add wood ash or dolomite to neutralise the heap
- » Rebuild with some dry materials

FLIES

- » Cover organic waste with a layer of soil
- » Avoid meat or dairy products

TOO WET

- » Improve drainage under the heap
- » Mix in some dry carbon-rich materials, e.g. shredded newspaper and hay

VERMIN

- » Cover each organic layer with soil and place the bin on a layer of fine mesh
- » Always keep the lid on

Not suitable for composting!

Some organic waste items encourage vermin and smell when they decompose. Avoid putting these items in your compost heap/bin:

- » Fats and oils
- » Meat products
- » Dairy products
- » Cat or dog faeces

Also, avoid man-made materials such as plastic, steel, aluminium and glass for safety reasons