

THE SECRET TO A HEALTHY COMPOST PILE

CARBON/NITROGEN RATIO

Carbon-rich matter gives compost its light, fluffy body. Nitrogen or protein-rich matter provides raw materials for making enzymes. A healthy compost pile should have much more carbon than nitrogen.



WHAT TO PUT IN COMPOST

Carbon

Nitrogen

Woodchips/pellets

Corn cobs

Wood ash

Coffee Grounds

Straw or hay

Tea leaves

Shrub pruning's

Table scraps

Dryer lint

Seaweed and kelp

Sawdust pellets

Grass clipping & garden weeds

Pine needles

Fruit and vegetable scraps

Newspaper and cardboard

Flowers, cuttings

Leaves

Eggshells

Shredded paper (avoid glossy paper and coloured inks)

Chicken, cow and sheep manure

THE 3 KEY ELEMENTS OF GOOD COMPOST

WATER

but only enough so that the contents are moist but not wet

OXYGEN

from air, added by regularly turning over the contents of the heap

WARMTH

by putting it in a sunny place (unless you are using a purchased bin of some type and the instructions warn against it because of the risk of overheating.)



COMPOSTING GUIDE

COMPOSTING TOP TIP

Storing Compost in the Kitchen:
To store kitchen waste until you're ready to transfer it to your composter, keep a container with a lid and a handle under the sink. Chop up any large chunks before you toss them in.



LETTUCE
COMPOST
TOGETHER



HOW TO COMPOST

1.

START YOUR COMPOST PILE ON BARE EARTH



This allows worms and other beneficial organisms to aerate the compost and be transported to your garden beds.

ADD COMPOST MATERIALS IN LAYERS

2.

Start with a layer of dry (carbon) material, which has air pocked and allows oxygen to get into the system. Then, every time you add a layer of green (nitrogen) material, add a layer of brown on top.

3.



KEEP COMPOST MOIST

Water occasionally, or let rain do the job

COVER WITH ANYTHING YOU HAVE

4.

wood, plastic sheeting, carpet scraps. Covering helps retain moisture and heat, two essentials for compost. Covering also prevents the compost from being over-watered by rain. The compost should be moist, but not soaked and sodden.



5.



TURN

Every few weeks give the pile a quick turn with a pitchfork or shovel. This aerates the pile.

AFTER BETWEEN TWO AND SIX MONTHS, THE COMPOST WILL BE READY TO GO

BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

01

Soil Conditioner

02

Recycles Kitchen and Yard Waste

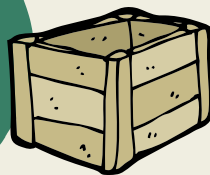
03

Introduces Beneficial Organisms to the Soil

04

Good for the Environment

WHAT BIN TO USE



Where to make your compost depends on the size of your yard. For those with limited space, compost can be made in a bucket or barrel. For those with yard space, a compost bay can be made out of easily accessible resources such as star steel posts and chicken wire.

Watch the links below for how to make an easy diy compost bin or bay:



www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/building-a-compost-bay/9432330



www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/easy-compost-bin/9430684

FURTHER RESOURCES

www.sgaonline.org.au/the-science-of-composting/

www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/compost-101/12654882

www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/get-composting/9437492

