

How to use your compost bin

Home composting is not only a natural and efficient way to recycle your food scraps, but will provide you with a free high quality resource for your garden.

Home composting is easy to do, cheap and provides many benefits including:

- Improves garden health and soil structure by adding valuable nutrients.
- Reduces water use in the garden.
- Saves money spent on fertilisers and mulch.
- Reduces the cost of waste disposal to the community.
- Reduces landfill.
- Avoids greenhouse gases produced by rotting material in landfill.

Materials that can go into a compost bin:

- Bark, woodchips and sawdust
- Garden waste
- Paper and pizza boxes
- Grass clippings
- Small twigs and leaves
- Hay/straw
- Food scraps

Material that can't go into a home compost bin:

- Plastic, large logs,
- Meat, dairy products and fatty foods. Put these in your green organics bin instead.
- Large quantities of fallen fruit. Put these in your green organics bin.

Handy hints:

- Oxygen is an essential ingredient for compost. Without sufficient oxygen the compost process will become anaerobic and produce undesirable odours. It is essential that you dig over your compost to aerate it.
- Your compost should be moist, but not wet. Too much moisture and your compost will start to smell, however it is equally important to ensure that your compost doesn't get too dry as this will slow the process right down.
- Keep a mix of brown and green materials in your compost bin. Brown materials are leaves, small twigs, newspaper, tissues, straw etc and are high in carbon. Green materials are high in nitrogen and include fresh materials such as grass clippings and food scraps. You need more brown materials than green to keep your compost balanced.
- The smaller we chop up our scraps and leaves then the quicker the pile will rot down.

