

How to use compost

Use compost as:

- seed-raising mix
- fertiliser
- mulch (apply up to twice a year on natives).



What you can compost

Fruit and vegetable peelings, newspapers, grass clippings, weeds, tea leaves, coffee grounds, egg shells, old potting mix, dead flowers, human and animal hair.

Hint Avoid placing meat or dairy products in your compost until you are confident and experienced in making compost.



4 easy steps to great compost

1 Choose the site

Look for a site with good drainage and summer shade.



2 Compost ingredients

You will need:

- nitrogen rich kitchen scraps such as fruit and vegetable peelings and green garden vegetation such as fresh grass clippings, green leaves, weeds and manure
- carbon-rich brown garden vegetation such as dry leaves, woody twigs, paper and straw
- some water
- some soil or completed compost to introduce composting micro-organisms.



Hints

- ✓ Use the lawn mower to chop up coarse garden prunings.
- ✓ Keep a bucket with a well-sealed lid in the kitchen to collect food scraps.



3 Layering

To build compost, start with a thick layer (15cm) of twigs or coarse mulch at the base for drainage. Then follow the A,B,C steps and repeat to build a heap layer upon layer.



- Thin layer of kitchen scraps and green garden vegetation
- Cover with a layer of brown garden vegetation covering all kitchen scraps
- Moisten well

Repeat A,B,C.

Hint Sprinkling soil or finished compost on top of food scraps will make a richer compost and help reduce odours.

4 Maintaining your compost

Add air to the compost so it doesn't smell by turning it with a garden fork weekly or by placing garden stakes or pipes through the heap to allow air in.

Hint Cover your heap so that it is just moist, not wet. If it is wet or saturated mix more dry brown material through it and turn.

Compost problems? Turn over for the Easy Compost Fix-it Guide

Why compost?

Compost is natural and inexpensive and is good for the environment. By turning food scraps and garden vegetation into compost you can:

- improve soil quality and garden vitality
- conserve water

- recycle valuable nutrients and reduce the use of artificial fertilisers
- prevent greenhouse gas emissions and landfill impacts from wasted food and garden vegetation.



Did you know?

- About half of what we throw into the garbage bin is food and garden waste.
- These materials can be used to make compost to benefit your garden.

