



Grow your own – compost



Composting is the natural way to return organic waste to the earth. It converts your leftovers into useful compost that'll enhance the structure of your soil, mulch your plants and return useful nutrients to your garden. It's so easy to do and it's true recycling!

Compost bin v Compost heap?

This is a personal decision—composting will happen whether you provide a bin or not. However, a bin does keep the compost tidy and most have a bottom flap that allows the composted material to be removed whilst leaving the less degraded material to continue composting.

If you decide to use a bin, site it on a level spot where excess water can drain away easily, and where the worms will easily access the material for composting through the base of the bin.

Worms do the work

Nature figured out recycling long before we did, and the amazing earthworm is one of the most effective recyclers on the planet! They eat the waste, convert it to liquid feed and compost and whilst they work, they also aerate the soil. Make sure it's easy for the worms to reach your compost and they'll do the work for you!

You CAN compost

Think vegetable matter—veg. peelings, fruit waste, teabags, grass cuttings, and plant prunings – all break down easily to provide moisture and nitrogen. These are your 'greens'.

Paper products and fallen leaves rot more slowly to provide the all-important fibre and carbon—these are your 'browns'.

You CANNOT compost

Never add meat or dairy products, dog poo, cat litter or babies' nappies to your compost.

Avoid diseased plant material or the seed heads of weeds.

Keep the balance

Good compost needs a balanced mix of 'greens' and 'browns'. A n easy way to tell if the balance is right is the moisture content—if it's too wet, add some 'browns' such as crumpled bits of cardboard, if it's too dry, add more 'greens'.

Let the air in

Keeping the compost aerated leads to faster composting. For example, adding scrunched-up cardboard or turning it with a garden fork will introduce air pockets into the compost,

The cycle is complete!

Once your compost has turned dark brown and has a spongy texture it can be used in the garden.

Digging it into the beds will improve the structure and texture of the soil, and will provide natural nutrients.

Use it as a mulch to suppress weeds and retain moisture

