

Composting

Start composting today and let nature do the recycling for you

Smarter
Choice

Save energy, water
and money



Turning kitchen waste into garden food.

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

Home composting bins you can buy or make include:

- plastic bins with ventilation holes or slits
- plastic bins without ventilation
- metal drums with holes punched in the side and the base removed
- rotating drum units (tumblers)
- enclosures made from timber (planks or sleepers), bricks, or chicken wire.

Composting is easy

- Choose a shady spot in the garden to start your compost heap or to position your compost bin. There are many types of composting bins available – some require mixing and some don't.
- Add to your compost in layers of food scraps, garden clippings and paper.
- Keep your compost moist, but not wet and aerate it about once a week.
- When your compost is dark and crumbly (about four months) dig it into your garden or spread it on top as mulch.

Compost needs:

Your compost needs a combination of “brown” and “green” material. Brown material is carbon rich and includes:

- leaves
- twigs
- sawdust
- shredded paper.

Green material is nitrogen rich and includes:

- fruit and vegetable peelings
- grass clippings
- soft prunings and leaves.

Add approximately one bucket of green material and three buckets of brown. You can add egg shells, tea bags and even dust from the vacuum cleaner to your compost.

For healthy compost avoid diseased plant material, meat scraps and bones, dairy products, bread, cake and pet droppings.

Nearly half of what we throw into the garbage bin is food and garden vegetation. Plan your shopping and cooking to help stop losing up to \$1,000 worth of edible food each year.

For more information on avoiding food waste visit the Love Food Hate Waste website at lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au

Contact details

For more information:

- ask your retailer or
- call Environment Line on 1300 361 967 or
- visit environment.nsw.gov.au/smarterchoice

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