

how to COMPOST

STARTING OUT

CHOOSE YOUR BIN

When choosing a bin, consider:

- o Airflow – Fresh air kills odours.
- o Accessibility – Make it easy to turn the compost by choosing a bin with a removable front.
- o Size – One cubic metre is a good size for beginners (about the size of a dishwasher).

BIN LOCATION

- o Choose a convenient, level, well-drained, sunny area.
- o Place bin on concrete or soil, not on wood or vinyl.
- o Leave some space around the bin to store extra leaves, soil, and other materials.
- o Shelter the bin from wind to reduce maintenance.
- o In the winter, find a sunny, sheltered spot close to your kitchen door.

WHAT CAN I COMPOST?

To compost successfully you need a mixture of roughly equal amounts of greens and browns.

GREENS (nitrogen rich)

- o Green garden waste, grass clippings
- o Weeds before they go to seed
- o Vegetable/fruit peels and scraps
- o Green leaves, flowers
- o Coffee grounds, tea bags

BROWNS (carbon rich)

- o Dried leaves, brown grass clippings, straw
- o Evergreen needles, prunings and cuttings
- o Sawdust (mix it in)
- o Dryer and vacuum lint
- o Paper/cardboard (mix it in)
- o Dead houseplants

YUCK. Don't compost these.

- o Weeds with seed heads or with aggressive roots
- o Diseased plants
- o Pet waste
- o Meat, fish or bones
- o Fat, oil or grease
- o Dairy products

HOW TO COMPOST

You have your site, your bin is set up, and you are ready to go! What's next?

COLLECTING MATERIALS IN THE KITCHEN AND GARDEN

The simplest way to collect kitchen materials is to use a plastic container stored either on the counter or under the sink. When it's full, take it out and add to the compost bin.

Collect and add yard and garden material to the compost as it is produced throughout the year.

PUTTING WASTE IN YOUR COMPOSTER (layer, layer, layer)

1. Put any prunings, wood chips or twigs in the bin first to let air into the bottom of the bin.
2. Layer greens and browns.
3. Add water to brown layers when dry.
4. Add dirt to green layers as you go.