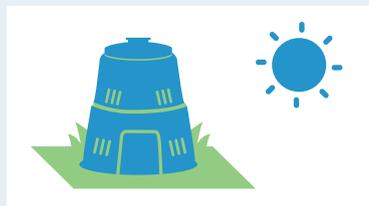


How to compost

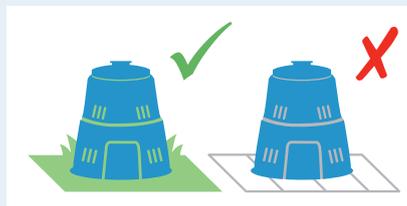


Compost is a dark nutrient rich material that boosts soil productivity. It helps create healthy and abundant gardens. Compost is made by mixing ordinary food and garden waste with a little water, and plenty of sunshine and air. When compost is working well it is full of soil life like worms, fungus, larvae, mites and centipedes. Good compost smells earthy, but not stinky. It can feel warm, damp and crumbly but not slimy.

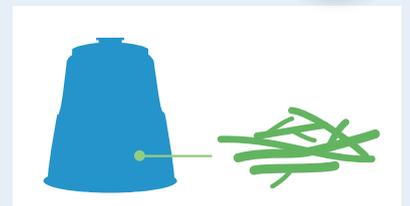
Getting started



Choose a sunny spot.



Place directly on the earth so soil life can enter.



Layer twigs at base for air flow.

The Compost Sandwich



Make compost by making a compost "sandwich" each time material is added.



1 Start the sandwich with a base layer of "browns" (see back for more information). Rip and scrunch all browns to ensure air flow.



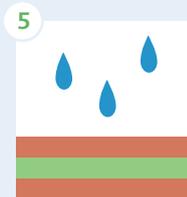
2 Next evenly spread a "green" layer (see back page for more information). This is the sandwich filling. Chop to golf ball size.



3 Ensure the green layer is the same thickness as the brown base-layer. Mix the two layers together to speed decomposition if desired.



4 Cap with an equal brown layer. This is the sandwich lid, which reduces odour and flies.



5 Compost should be moist like a sponge. Add water to dry material.



6 Cover to trap moisture.



7 Add more sandwiches over time as food and garden waste is generated. Stockpile browns for use when needed. To help the composting process, before adding a new sandwich, check the last sandwich. Turn over and add water if needed. Compost is ready to use when it looks like rich soil. This can be found at the bottom of the pile after several months.



What should go in the compost bin?

Green
(nitrogen rich, wet)

Brown
(carbon rich, dry)



Simple compost sandwich



Green

bokashi food waste

Brown

dried lawn clippings

Water may not be needed because bokashi traps moisture. Additional water could dilute beneficial micro-organisms.

Don't add



Noxious weeds



Food that rats like to eat



Oil and other liquids



Dog and cat poo (manure from vegetarian animals is fine)

Precautions



Breathing in or handling compost may make some people sick. If compost is steaming we advise wearing a face mask.



Consider wearing gloves and a face mask when handling or turning compost.



Always wash hands with soap after composting.