

THE COMPOST COLLECTIVE



COMPOST BIN

GETTING STARTED

Choose a sunny spot to place your compost bin. Position directly on the earth so soil life can enter. Layer twigs at the base so air can flow freely inside.

WHAT TO ADD

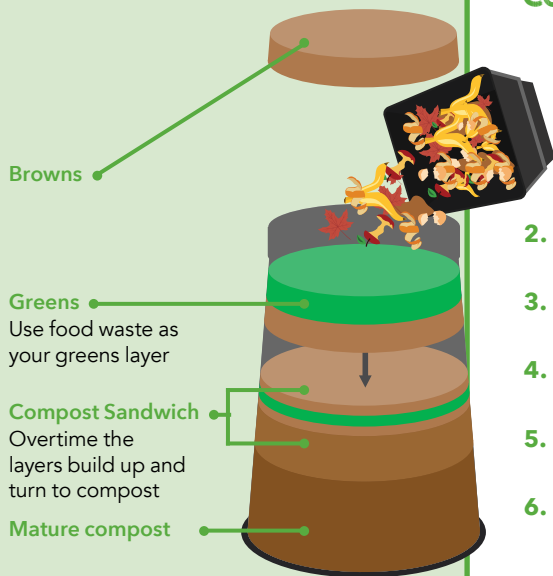
Greens are anything soft, fresh, moist and nitrogen rich, such as food waste or fresh green lawn clippings.

Browns are anything brown, brittle and carbon rich such as fallen autumn leaves, paper and cardboard, or dry browned lawn clippings.

WHAT NOT TO ADD

Noxious weeds, dog and cat faeces (manure from grass-eating, herbivorous animals is fine), oil and other liquids, cooked and/or processed foods, such as bread, pasta and meat unless it has been treated with Bokashi first.

COMPOST BIN



COMPOST SANDWICH

To make compost, you need to combine your Greens and Browns in layers, a bit like a sandwich.

1. A proper balance is 30% Greens and 70% Browns
2. Start the sandwich with a base layer of 'Browns'
3. Next, evenly spread a Green layer. This is called the sandwich filling
4. Ensure the Green layer is the same thickness as the Brown base layer
5. Mix the two layers together to accelerate decomposition if desired
6. Cap with an equal brown layer. This is the sandwich lid and helps to reduce odour and flies

THE PROBLEM IS THE SOLUTION

Rodents can be attracted to compost both as a source of food and shelter. Therefore your compost bin is a great place away from your house to set traps and bait stations for pest control.

If rodents persist;

- make sure the lid is always secure
- place your compost bin on a base of wire netting that extends 10cm beyond its edge and pin it down
- push the wire netting into the air holes as a barrier, which still allows for air circulation.

FEEDING YOUR COMPOST

Keep feeding your compost in layers as shown in the diagram, but remember, compost should be moist like a sponge. Accordingly, add water to the dry material, cover to trap moisture and make sure there is plenty of air flow around and within the heap.



Air



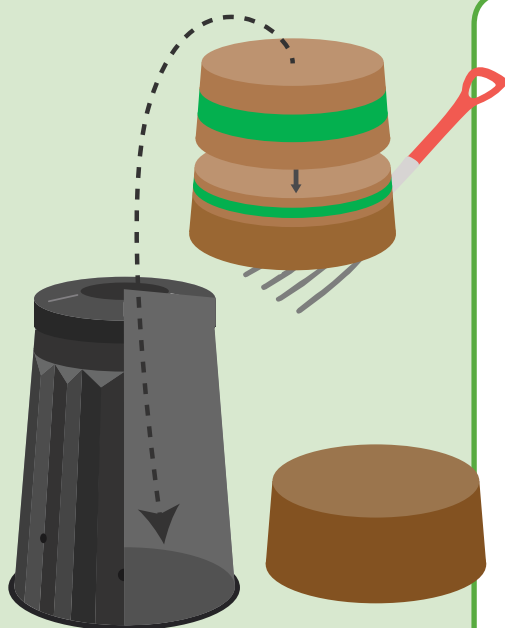
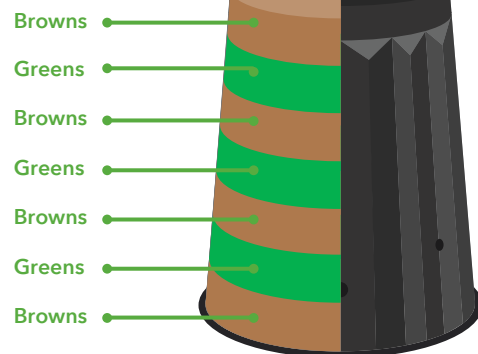
Water



Greens



Browns



HARVEST TIME

Compost is ready to harvest when it becomes sweet, dark and crumbly and you cannot identify the original materials in it. This normally takes 6-8 months.

Harvest the bottom 1/3 of composted material by removing the bin. With a garden fork take the top 2/3 of semi composted material and place it back in the bin. This will leave a pile of good quality compost to spread over your garden.

TIPS

- At all times your compost heap should be moist like a sponge but not wet, as this will prevent air circulation.
- Stir the top layers of your compost regularly with a fork, taking care not to mix it with the base layers of composted material. This will help to aerate the fresh material while the disturbance will help prevent pests.
- Compost will be found at the bottom of the pile after 6-8 months

YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Compost can contain micro-organisms such as Legionella that on rare occasions can cause serious illness. It is advisable to wear a face mask and or avoid breathing in vapour if the compost is steaming.

Always wear gloves when handling compost and wash you hands afterwards.