



## Home Composting Guide

Turn your kitchen and garden waste into FREE nutrient-rich compost

## WHY COMPOST?



- ♥ Reduces waste
- ♥ Cuts carbon emissions
- ♥ Improves your soils health and structure
- ♥ Saves money on shop-bought compost

## CHOOSE YOUR COMPOST BIN

You can use:

- ✓ A compost bin
- ✓ A compost heap
- ✓ A tumbler (faster results)
- ✓ A wooden slatted bay (great for larger gardens)

## PLACE YOUR BIN

- 🌿 On bare soil (helps drainage and worms to get in)
- ☀️ In a sunny or partially shaded spot
- 👷 Somewhere easy to access year round

## GREEN MATERIALS NITROGEN RICH

Add little and often:

- 🍌 Fruit & veg peelings
- 🍵 Tea bags (plastic-free) & coffee grounds
- 🌿 Fresh grass cuttings
- 🌸 Wilted flowers
- 🌿 Green leaves

## BROWN MATERIALS CARBON RICH

Add regularly:

- 📦 Cardboard & egg boxes (torn)
- 📄 Shredded paper
- 🍂 Dry leaves
- 🪵 Twigs, sawdust, wood shavings
- 🚽 Toilet roll tubes

## AVOID

These attract pests, smell, or don't break down properly

- ✗ Meat, fish & bones
- ✗ Dairy products
- ✗ Cooked food or leftovers
- ✗ Oils, fats & greasy foods
- ✗ Pet waste (dog/cat)
- ✗ Coal/BBQ ash
- ✗ Diseased plants (e.g., blight)
- ✗ Invasive weeds (e.g., bindweed, knotweed)

## GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT ⚖️

50% Greens  
50% Browns

- 🟢 Too many greens → soggy & smelly
- 🟠 Too many browns → dry & slow to break down


Tip: Each time you add fruit/veg scraps, sprinkle in some shredded paper or dried leaves.

## KEEP IT BREATHING

Compost needs air.

- ✓ Turn or stir the pile every 2–4 weeks
- ✓ Add cardboard to reduce moisture
- ✓ Break up large items before adding

## MOISTURE CHECK

Your compost should feel like a damp sponge 

- Too dry → add greens or water
- Too wet → add browns and turn


## FRIENDLY HELPERS


A healthy compost bin is full of:




These creatures naturally break down your waste.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

 Depending on weather and materials:

 6–12 months for finished compost

 Faster if you turn it often

## USING YOUR FINISHED COMPOST

You'll know it's ready when it's:


- ✓ Dark
- ✓ Crumbly
- ✓ Earthy smelling

## USE IT FOR

- ♥ Garden beds
- ♥ Pots & planters
- ♥ Mulching around shrubs
- ♥ Improving soil quality

## EXTRA TIP: FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

For anything you can't compost at home (meat, fish, bones, cooked food),

 use your kerbside food waste recycling service

♥ It's processed safely and hygienically.

## THE FOOD WASTE YOU CANNOT COMPOST IS TAKE TO A LOCAL ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY

