

# Making compost



Compost is the result of a natural process which transforms kitchen and garden waste into a nutrient rich food for your garden – it's nature's way of recycling!

## So how do I do it?

### Step 1 The bin

You can make your own compost bin from a variety of readily available materials – four wooden pallets upended and tied together with string makes a perfectly good bin.

Use a piece of old carpet as a 'lid'. Alternatively, most councils will supply low cost compost bins.



### Step 2 Where to put it

Place your bin somewhere fairly sunny and warm. On bare soil is best but you can stand it on slabs or concrete, just put a layer of soil or moist crunched up cardboard in the bottom.

### Step 3 What goes in?

The key to successful compost making is to have a good mix of 'greens' and 'browns'.

**Greens** are wet, soft materials that are high in nitrogen, such as

- Raw vegetable & fruit waste
- Tea bags
- Coffee grinds & filters
- Annual weeds
- Grass clippings



**Browns** are dry, harder, absorbent materials that are high in carbon, such as

- Paper
- Cardboard including egg boxes & loo rolls
- Eggshells
- Straw & hay
- Hair



### Things NOT to compost include

- Meat & fish scraps
- Cooked food
- Dairy products
- Bread
- Cat litter
- Dog poo



If your heap seems a bit dry, water it lightly and increase your greens; if it's a bit wet and smelly add more browns.

### Step 4 What happens next?

Once you've filled your compost bin you can relax – compost just happens!

A compost heap is a magnet for all kinds of wildlife, including frogs and toads, slow worms and even grass snakes. Give the heap a stir occasionally and you may see some of the following mini beasts chomping their way through your rubbish!

You might see

- Tiger worms
- Earwigs
- Ground beetles & woodlice
- Millipedes & centipedes
- Slugs & snails



## Did you know...?

The UK produces enough waste to fill the Albert Hall every two hours

On average, each of us throws away seven times our body weight every year

Much of this waste could be Reduced, Reused, Recycled or.... COMPOSTED



### Step 5 When it's done

Your compost is ready to use when it looks dark and crumbly and has a lovely warm, earthy smell. It can then be used in your forest garden or in containers, window boxes or hanging baskets.

By making your own compost you are helping to send less rubbish to landfill, reducing harmful methane emissions and the need for chemical fertilisers.

# cubs



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