

12 SECRETS TO HOME COMPOSTING

It's easy to set up your own compost system at home and there are many different ways you can do this. It can be simple, affordable and done anywhere, even with limited space.

1 Position the bin in a shady spot in direct contact with the soil.

2 Bury the base to prevent rodents from getting in.

3 Add sticks or dry, coarse material to the base to aerate the pile.

4 Add 1 part 'green matter' – garden clippings and fruit/vegetable scraps, tea leaves, coffee grinds, etc.

5 Add 2 parts 'brown matter' – dry leaves, mulch, cardboard like egg cartons, shredded paper, tissues, napkins, etc. to feed carbon into your compost and aerate the pile.

6 Add water so it's damp but not soggy.



Use your nose as a guide – if it's stinky you probably need to add more brown and if it doesn't smell at all it's probably too dry so add more water.

8 Avoid meat, wheat and dairy to avoid attracting vermin.

9 Once it's full, leave it and wait for 2 to 3 months and when the bigger pieces have broken down it'll be ready to go.

10 To speed up the process, use a garden fork to aerate the pile once a week or so.

11 Add a handful of poultry manure or blood and bone sprinkled onto a dry layer to boost the nitrogen.

12 Add a handful of lime once a month or so to combat the acidity created by decomposing scraps – the worms love it.



Benefits of composting

Compost is so important because it enhances overall soil health and improves soil's resilience to shocks such as drought. Composting food scraps at home can:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill,
- Reduce leachate production in landfills,
- Reduce the amount of watering required in gardening and landscaping,
- Reduce synthetic fertilisers needed in horticulture and agriculture,
- Improve the structure, fertility and health of soil,
- May provide biological control of certain pests, and
- Help return organic materials to the soil and keep them out of landfills and waterways.

DID YOU KNOW ORGANIC FOOD WASTE ACCOUNTS FOR UP TO 50% OF ALL HOUSEHOLD WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL?



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