

# How to make compost

## SIMPLE GUIDE



### Set up your bin

Place your bin in the sun in winter and semi-shade in summer to keep it warm. If you have a bin sitting on the ground, add dry leaves and twigs as the first layer to help with drainage and air circulation, at least 10cm thick. Two bins are ideal so you can be adding to one while resting the other.



### Add Browns (Carbon) and Greens (Nitrogen)

Start with 50/50 browns (dry organic matter including leaves, twigs, newspaper, ash etc) and greens (wet green organic matter including kitchen vegetable scraps, grass clippings, garden cuttings, coffee grounds etc).



### Keep turning it

Stir your compost at least once a week, more often if you can. Check the consistency and add more browns, and more greens or sprinkle with water if you need to. You will know it's ready when it's rich dark brown and smells earthy. Air and variety are what make good compost.



### What you can and can't compost

**Can:** Kitchen scraps - Lawn clippings - Garden prunings - Newspaper and office paper - Cardboard - Leaves - Old potting mix - Fireplace ash - Vacuum dust - Coffee grounds and tea leaves - Cow, horse or chicken manure - Sawdust - Cotton t-shirts or bed sheets - Hair.

**Can't:** Meat - Dairy - Large amounts of citrus and onion.



### Common problems

**Flies or it's wet and smelly?** Add more browns. **Dry and crumbly?** Add more greens and sprinkle in some water.

**Breaking down too slowly?** Add stinging nettles, comfrey (or leafy greens), and some garden soil, or cut everything smaller. And give it a turn! More air will help break it down faster.