

# DO IT YOURSELF COMPOSTING



THE SMALLER THE SCRAPS,  
THE FASTER YOU COMPOST.

## HOW TO COMPOST

### Step 1

Choose a warm position outside where the compost has direct contact with dirt or soil.

### Step 2

Place coarse twigs on the bottom of the compost to help with drainage and air flow.

### Step 3

Organise your organic waste in a bin or pile. Put fruit and vegetable scraps on the compost heap, but NO meat, bread or dairy products.

### Step 4

Layer your compost, alternating between nitrogen-rich green layers (e.g. lawn clippings, weeds, kitchen scraps, manure) and carbon-rich brown layers (e.g. dried leaves, branches, straw, shredded paper, egg shells).

### Step 5

Keep your pile moist (not soaking wet) with tea and coffee grounds, or water.

### Step 6

Ensure your pile is aerated by turning it with a garden fork or compost turner to allow air in.

### Step 7

Keep your pile covered – this will ensure it doesn't dry out or get too soggy in the rain and help prevent pests.

COMPOSTING REDUCES THE  
AMOUNT OF ORGANIC WASTE  
GOING TO LANDFILL.

Composting converts into a useful by-product that's ideal for a garden fertiliser.

## HELP! I HAVE A COMPOST PROBLEM.

You need the right balance of moisture, heat, air and materials to have a successful compost environment. Here are some common problems and suggested solutions:

### NOT BREAKING DOWN

- Add water
- Add a variety of both fruit and vegetable scraps, and garden scraps to your pile - you can't have just one or the other as compost likes diversity.
- Ensure your compost is aerated by turning it every time you add scraps.

### SMELLY

- Add wood ash or dolomite to neutralise the heap.
- Add a layer of dry garden scraps.

### FLIES

- Cover organic waste with a layer of soil.
- Avoid meat or dairy products.

### TOO WET

- Improve drainage under the heap.
- Mix in some dry carbon-rich materials, e.g. shredded newspaper and hay.

### VERMIN

- Always keep the lid on.
- Cover fruit and vegetable scraps with a layer of soil or dry garden scraps each time they are added.
- Place the bin on a layer of fine mesh.

## NOT SUITABLE FOR COMPOSTING!

Some organic waste items encourage vermin and smell when they decompose. Avoid putting these items in your compost heap or bin:

- Fats and oils
- Meat products
- Dairy products
- Cat or dog faeces
- Citrus, onion & garlic

Do not add man-made materials like plastic, steel, aluminium and glass to your compost heap or bin.

IF IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT!  
FOR MORE COMPOSTING TIPS:



[townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au)