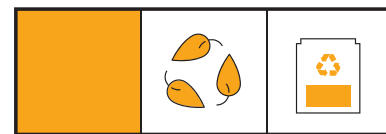


# HOME COMPOSTING



## HOME COMPOSTING

### WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is a natural process that converts organic kitchen and garden waste into a rich dark substance. This substance is called compost or humus or soil improver. Composting is a direct, important and economical way of recycling. It has been estimated that 35% of household waste can be composted.

### WHY IS COMPOSTING USEFUL?

- Protects the environment as it is made of recyclable materials
- Restricts the use of pesticides
- Takes care of the plants in an ecological way
- Saves water since the material produced retains moisture

### WHERE SHOULD THE COMPOSTER BE PLACED

The composter should be in contact with the ground (soil) and exposed to rain water and the sun. We thus make sure that, the microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) needed for the composting process are introduced into the compostable material.

### CONDITIONS (HUMIDITY & VENTILATION)

- Once the various materials are placed in the compost, you should check the humidity of the pile at least once a week and spray it with water when the pile is dry
- Then give it a thorough mix, especially when adding new materials, to facilitate composting.

### COMPOST IS READY TO USE WHEN IT:

- has a dark brown colour
- has an earthy odour
- is lightweight and crisp
- contains no materials in their original form
- the volume of the contents of the compost bin have been reduced to about 1/3 of the original volume



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## HOME COMPOSTING

### WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED?

#### ORGANIC

- fruit and vegetable residues from the kitchen (peels, fruits / vegetables, vegetable stalks, bean pods, peas, broad beans, potatoes, eggplants, tomatoes, onions, overcooked or damaged fruit, etc.
- salad residue after it has been drained from liquids (with minimal oil)
- egg shells
- coffee and tea leftovers with their water
- grass trimmed from lawns and gardens
- remnants of ornamental plants and trees (branches, shoots, leaves), weeds (not with mature seeds), withered flowers, soil from pots. The ideal size of these materials should be between about 1.5 and 7.5 cm.

The size of the material significantly affects the microbial activity as fragmentation increases the surface area of the microbial enzymes and reduces the air voids in the bin.

Initial size also influences the grain size of the finished product compost

#### PAPER

- Kitchen paper (eg paper towels, kitchen roll, torn bags) in small quantities depending on the moisture content of the mixture (excluding printed paper and cardboard)
- Wood-ash (free of plastic or other debris), in small quantities up to 10% due to its high inorganic content

#### OTHER

- animal bedding straw or animal manure
- seaweed
- manure from sheep goats and cattle

#### INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS:

Recyclable materials, such as metal objects, plastics of all kinds, glasses, coloured paper, treated wood or chipboard, pieces of drywall, stones, metal objects, plastics, glass, printed paper, food residues containing fats, meat, bones, and cleaning equipment.



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