

DID YOU KNOW – DIY HOME COMPOST

Composting at home is a fantastic way to reduce your waste footprint, reuse organic matter and create a quality mulch to add to your garden.

By following these instructions you can make a simple compost pile in your backyard:

Step 1 - Find a good spot on your property to start your compost pile. A well-draining area with partial shade is ideal. Your pile should be a minimum of one square metre to work efficiently and a height up to one metre. A good way to house your compost is within recycled untreated timber pallets with at least three sides.

Step 2 - Start adding to your compost pile. You need to layer your pile with dry matter, moist matter and leaf litter. Ensure you have an even ratio of brown waste to green waste. Brown waste is high carbon including cardboard, paper, dry leaves and woody twigs. Green waste is high in nitrogen including kitchen waste, coffee grounds, manure and green clippings.

Step 3 - Turn your pile once a week with a garden fork. Turning creates aerations which assists in the decomposing process and manages odour.

Step 4 - Your pile should be ready after about one to three months. The matter should be dark and crumbly and you should no longer be able to recognise the material you placed in the pile.

Step 5 – Use your compost as mulch around your garden to improve soil quality, reduce the need for watering and also to control weed growth.



A couple of tips:

- Your compost pile should not have a noxious odour, it should have a distinct humus, earthy smell. If your compost becomes smelly, increase aeration and add more brown waste. Often, if compost is too wet or lacks air it becomes smelly.
- Do not let your compost pile dry out. If you see it looks extremely brown and dry, add green items and water to make it slightly moist. If you need to add water to your compost pile, consider adding grey water from your laundry.
- If you have access to a chipper you can add chipped vegetation to the mix – if not, leaf litter, grass cuttings and weeds will be sufficient to add to the pile.

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