



# How to Make Your Own Compost

Using home-made compost is a brilliant, natural way to improve the soil in your garden. Composting not only recycles waste, it provides an important habitat for wildlife too.

*Garden bugs help break down the waste into compost.*

**When:**  
All year round

**What you need:**

-  Compost bin
-  Gloves
-  Shovel and fork

**How:**



**1** Position your compost bin in a sunny spot, on soil for good drainage.



**2** Top-up your compost bin with a mixture from the **Good ingredients** list.

Plant waste is either "green" (leaves, flowers, weeds, grass cuttings) or "brown" (bark, stems, roots). For the best compost, aim for a mix of both!

**What goes into the compost bin**

Try to use a variety of ingredients in your compost bin:

✓ **Good ingredients...**

- Old plants and leaves
- Lawn clippings
- Fruit and vegetable cuttings and peel
- Tea bags and coffee
- Egg shells
- Shredded paper
- Cotton and wood materials

✗ **Don't put in...**

- Weeds with seeds on
- Synthetic fabrics
- Cooked food
- Meat, fish
- Coal ash
- Pet waste
- Nappies
- Oil

Composting uses the goodness from decaying plants and turns it into rich soil for new plants to grow in.



**3** Cover the bin and mix the top few layers every month.



**4** The heap will rot down and you can use the rich compost from the bottom of the bin after 5 months.

