

Compost

A compost pile will reduce your output of garbage as well as provide you with an excellent soil improver for your garden. Compost makes use of dead leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen refuse.

To Start

Place the bin in a shady, sheltered spot that is close enough to the house so that it is convenient to unload deposits.

The Structure

Your compost bin can be made of slats of wood, chicken wire, a bottomless garbage pail or you can purchase a durable plastic ready-made one. A low opening on one side enables easy removal of the compost.

What to Compost

- Kitchen scraps
- Green grass clippings
- Sawdust
- Dry leaves
- Shredded newspaper
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds are good compostables

Do not put in grease, oil, animal fats, bones, meat scraps or cat and dog faeces as this will attract pests and slow down the decay.

Start with a 6" layer of soil or well rotted manure at the bottom. Add a layer of shredded newspaper, dry leaves or wood ash and a layer of nitrogen rich material (kitchen waste or lawn clippings). Alternate these layers with soil, lime, bone meal, seaweed, and a compost accelerator or high nitrogen fertilizer. Spray the compost with water regularly. Turning the pile monthly aids in decomposition, and should be done when it looks like the pile has shrunk. Turning once or twice a year is sufficient, but the decomposition rate will be slower. Compost is ready when it looks dark and crumbly. You can purchase compost accelerator which will speed up the breakdown of plant material.

Winter:

You may add new compostables to the pile in the spring. As the temperatures warm, the compost will start decomposition again. Putting black plastic over the pile will speed up the process as well as keep some of the winter precipitation off the compost pile.

