

MAKING COMPOST

What to include:

- Vegetable scraps
- Vegetable oil
- Hedge prunings
- Lawn clippings
- Used potting mix
- Eggshells
- Flowers
- Apple cores and fruit scraps
- Used tea bags and coffee grounds
- Shredded paper and cardboard

Large pieces take longer to break down. Chop them up into small pieces.

Keep strong things, like citrus peels and onions to a minimum.

What NOT to include:

- Meat and bones
- Dairy products
- Diseased plants
- Metals, plastic and glass
- Animal manures and pet droppings
- Fat
- Magazines
- Large branches
- Sawdust from treated timber
- Synthetic chemicals
- Weeds that have seeds or underground stems



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I prefer compost to be built up from the ground as it encourages earth worms to enter, but a tumbler or compost bin is also ok.

Try to turn the pile on a regular basis (weekly if possible) and add a high nitrogen fertiliser (such as Urea) to help it break down faster in hot weather.

Add layers and turn with a pitchfork.

Composts can generate a lot of heat. Don't put bare hands into the compost pile to avoid burns.

When you have a broken- down compost, place it out on a mat in the sun and allow to cool. Once cooled, it is ready to be dug into your garden.



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