



Making Compost

Compost is nature's fertiliser. It is made from decomposed organic matter. Organic matter is something that once lived.

What you need

To make successful compost you need-

1. **Something to put it in**

- Plastic bins with lid
- Sealed barrels on a stand
- Make your own metal, wooden or wire bins
- A free standing heap (for bigger properties)



Plastic Bin



Barrel/Tumbler



Homemade Bin

2. **Carbon material** (Dry papery bark/straw like material)

- Dried leaves
- Sawdust
- Shredded Newspaper
- Straw, etc

3. **Nitrogen material** (Soft, green, fleshy material)

- Fresh lawn clippings
- Manures
- Vegetable scraps
- Soft green leaves

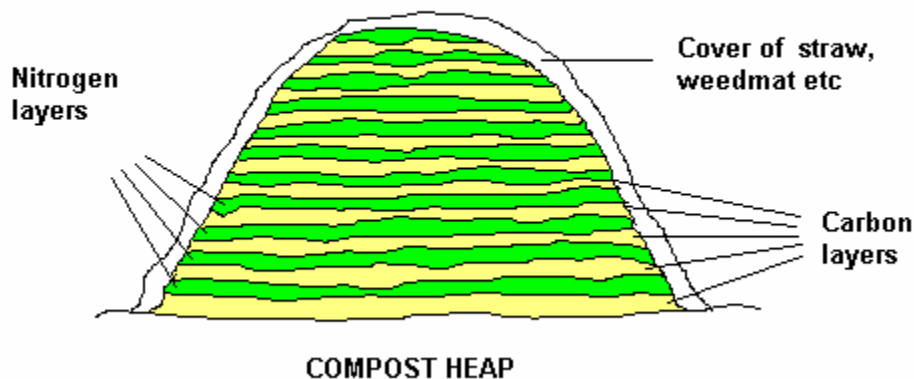
4. **Water** – Keep moist - not saturated

5. **Air** – Constant turning, holes in bins, ventilation required.



Easy compost

1. Place a layer of straw (not too thick) at the base of your bin
2. Place a layer of fresh grass clippings on top.
3. Mix well & water till moist (not saturated)
4. Progressively add layers of nitrogen material and then carbon material.
- Roughly 4 parts nitrogen to 1 part carbon
5. Gradually build up the compost this way, the thinner the layers the better.
6. Add water as you go. Remember - 'Keep it moist, not saturated'
7. Keep layering until full.
8. Cover it and you should have compost in about 8 weeks
9. If you turn it regularly, you can get compost in about 6 weeks.



Some important tips to keep in mind

- Try to keep the material as fine as possible.
- If you have a bin you can build it up over a period of time. When the bin is full, you will have ready compost at the bottom of the bin.
- Lift up the bin and dig it out, then keep filling from the top the same way as above.
- Barrels are quicker because they are easier to turn.
- It should get very warm, maybe even hot. This is normal.
- You can use meat and processed food but this could bring vermin.
- Citrus and onions take a lot longer to break down.
- You don't need to add soil. This actually slows it down.
- If it remains smelly it's probably too wet. Add dry material and/or turn.
- When it's done, use it generously on all types of plants.

Good luck and happy gardening