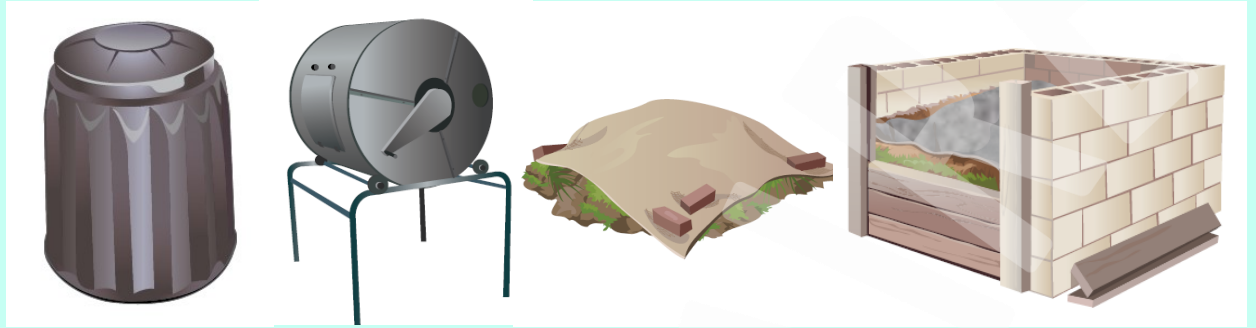


Composting

Setting up your Compost

Select and setup a compost system which suits you:

- Compost bin
- Barrels and tumblers
- Covered heap on the ground
- Compost bay

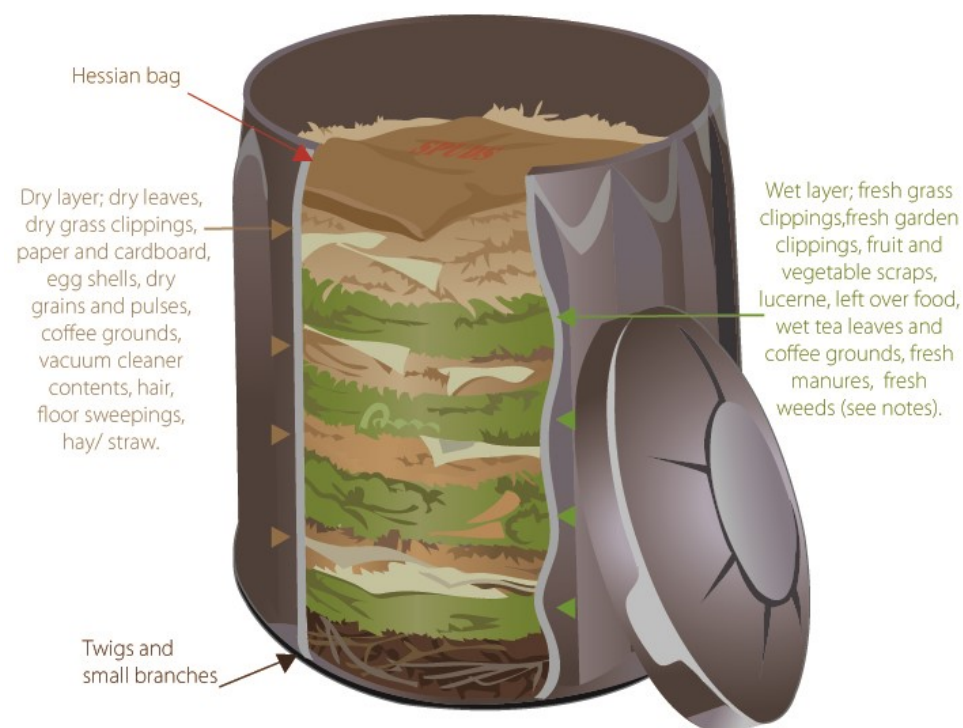


For the best results your compost needs to be located:

- in a warm sunny place in your backyard. At least 4 hours of good sunshine each day is recommended.
- on the soil, not on concrete as you want the critters in the soil to move into your compost.
- in a well drained site so that your compost does not become water logged.
- close enough to your house so that it is convenient to visit your compost every day or so.

What to put in your compost

To compost correctly you need approximately equal amounts (50:50) of *Dry/Brown (Carbon Rich)* and *Wet/Green (Nitrogen/Rich)* ingredients.



note—Noxious or easily spread weeds can be placed in a plastic bag and left in the sun for a few days to kill them before putting in your compost bin

The ADAM Principle

The ADAM principles are essential to a good composting system. When one of the components of ADAM is missing, then the compost will take longer to mature, or it may stop breaking down all together.

Aliveness — a compost heap is a living system; expect to see some critters in it. The critters actually assist with the decomposition process.

Diversity — the greater the diversity of material the richer the compost you will receive. Add different materials from the wet and dry ingredients list.

Aeration — Composting is a process of aerobic decomposition. For quicker nicer smelling compost you need to add air (oxygen) into your compost by turning it **every 2 weeks**. Without air, your compost will turn into a wet, smelly pile of sludge.

Moisture — the heap should be as moist as a lightly squeezed sponge. Without moisture your compost will stop breaking down.

Keep your compost covered with a damp hessian sack, towel or newspaper
—this will help maintain moisture and trap any food smells

What NOT to put in your compost

- Meat
- Dairy (very small quantities may be fine to add)
- Seafood
- Carnivorous animal manure (dog and cat faeces)

Compost is the best Natural Fertiliser

- Compost will take 6-12 weeks depending on your system
- Your compost is ready when it's a rich earthy colour like soil

Trouble Shooting

Too wet —add a few more dry ingredients and turn it. Also try leaving your compost uncovered to dry out a bit.

Smelly—Add some more dry ingredients and a handful of lime, and then turn your compost.

Ants—Your compost is too dry. Add some more wet ingredients or water.

Cockroaches— you are not visiting your compost enough, cockroaches like to live in an undisturbed environment with plenty of food.

Vinegar Flies—too acidic. Add some wood ash, lime or dolomite and make sure food scraps are always covered by a dry layer.

Maggots—not really a problem, but if this bothers you, place a piece of bread soaked in milk in your compost, give the maggots 10-15 minutes to latch onto the bread and then remove the whole thing—maggots and all and put into your rubbish bin.

