

Composting- Nature’s way of recycling Food and Garden waste.

Time is running out, let us play our part to save environment

Composting is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden and also reduces the amount of waste going to the garbage, thus protecting the environment.



Compost bin ideas

Composting - A Step by Step Guide

- 1. Add the right ingredients.** Put one part green/kitchen waste in composting area/bin and cover it well with three parts dry leaves. Add in handful of soil and 0.5 to 1 liter of water once a week to keep it moist. Straw and hay also put if leaves are not available. Keep adding food/green waste and dry leaves till the area/pot gets filled up. **There is no need to mix the ingredients.** Start the process in a new area and leave the older compost for proper rotting (curing). Keep adding water during curing phase.

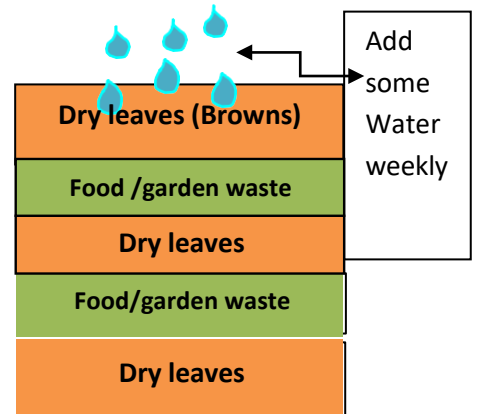
Food waste



Compost



Dry + Leaves



Sandwich Method:

Food/garden waste is sandwiched between **thick layers** of dry leaves which prevents odour and keeps flies away.

- 2. Apartment Composting.** Drill holes on four sides of a large clay pot. It should be placed in airy place (terrace/lawn/balcony). Rest of the process is same as above.

- 3. Wait a while till ready for use –** The compost is ready to be used when it becomes dark and crumbly and starts resembling a wrung out sponge. Don’t worry If your compost looks a little lumpy

with twigs and bits of eggshells – this is perfectly normal. Use it as organic fertilizer. It takes approximately 3-5 months for compost to be ready.

The key to good compost lies in getting the mix right. If your compost is too wet and gives off an odour, add more dry leaves- ***browns***, which are slower to rot. If it's too dry and is not rotting, add some ***greens and water***, which are quick to rot.

Browns (Contain Carbon)	Green (Contain Nitrogen)	Not to be put in compost Bin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry Leaves • Crushed egg shells/Tea bags • Cardboard and paper • Old natural fiber clothes 100% cotton/ wool • Straw/hay/Saw dust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetable/Fruit peelings • Left-over food including cooked meat and bones • Green leaves • Plant trimmings • Fresh Grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw meat. Dairy products (milk/yoghurt/cheese) • Plastic, Tin, metals, tetrapak • Baby's Nappies • Ash from charcoal/ coal • Diseased plants • Dog poo or cat litter

How to use the compost in different areas: The fresh compost is nutrient rich. It improves your soil's condition and your plants and flowers will love it. *Always leave gaps around any soft stemmed plants.*

- **On flower beds:** Dig a 10cm layer of compost into the soil prior to planting. If flowers have already been planted, simply spread a thin layer of soft compost - enriched soil around the base of the plants.
- **To enrich new borders:** Spread up to a 5cm layer of compost over the existing soil.
- **Around trees:** Spread a 5-10cm layer around the roots. *Avoid base of the tree* and do not spread too close to the trunk.
- **To replenish pots:** By removing the top few centimeters of existing soil in the potted plants and replacing it with compost gives refreshed energy to the plants.
- **Using it for herbs & vegetables:** Compost is excellent for growing herbs such as chives, parsley and mint. Simply crumble it around the base of the plants for healthier, leafier herbs. It is exceptionally good for planting potatoes & carrots.
- **Feeding your lawn:** For dressing the lawn, first sieve the compost and remove any large twigs or eggshells. Next, mix it with an even amount of sharp sand to compost so as to allow it to spread more easily. Layer should be about 2.5cm thick.
- **Landscaping:** Compost made from dried leaves grass and plant trimmings is called mulch which can be used for decorating and landscaping of the flower bed. It also conserves water.

