



Sharing the best in Gardening

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# Composting

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# Home Composting – why ?



We can convert waste kitchen and garden materials into organic matter for the garden

It diverts green waste from landfill, saving energy and reducing carbon emissions

It's produces nutrient rich soil improver which feeds our plants and helps soil to retain water

It's easy and free to do!

# Before you start

What material do you have to compost and how frequently will you access the bin?

How much space can you devote to the composting area?

Where will you position your compost bin?

How fast do you want your compost?



# What can I compost ?

Getting your mix right is essential!  
But a poor mix can be improved.

- Balance of Carbon : Nitrogen
- Layering
- Air flow
- Moisture





# Good for the heap



Organic matter (anything that was once alive)

Uncooked vegetable and fruit waste

Garden trimmings and waste

Pet guinea pig and rabbit waste –  
vegetarian animals only

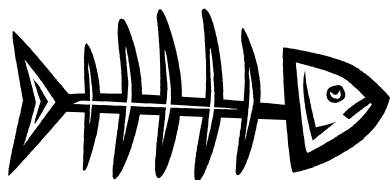
# Bad for the heap



Inorganic matter such as plastics, metals etc

Cooked food

Meat and fish bones



Cat and Dog Waste



Acidic materials

# Things to remember

## DO

- Layers **50% greens** and **50% browns**
- **Increase air flow** - slatted sides and regular turning
- Try to keep the heap **damp BUT not wet**

## DON'T

- Don't add, **meat or fish scraps, or cooked kitchen waste**
- Don't add **perennial weed seeds** or **diseased plant matter**



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# What's the problem ?

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Too wet

Too dry

Nasty smell Ammonia ? Rotten eggs ?

Slow rate of decomposition



# How can I use the compost ?



Top dressing in pots

Mulch on beds and around plants



Create a bean trench

Potting compost



Grow pumpkins

# Types of home composting

## Plastic or Wooden Compost Bin



# Wormeries

Cooked or Uncooked food waste only





# Others



Leaf mould – excellent free resource for soil improvement

Bokashi – originated in Japan means Fermentation



Greencone – breaks down food waste but produces no compost

# RHS Research



## RHS soil scientists compared

- An open heap
- A plastic compost bin
- A wooden compost bin

Waste input was standardised

- The container chosen affected the temperature of the heap
- Turning did have benefits
- The bigger the bin the better

They then compared the compost produced for



- Weed germination
- Use as a potting compost



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# How can the RHS help?

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## **RHS Advisory Service**

Online advice service available to all

Bespoke advice for members, RHS community gardening campaigns, Bloom & It's Your Neighbourhood, Affiliated Societies

Soil Testing Service - £30 for non-members



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Any Questions ?

Practical activity