

Home Composting Guide

What should be composted?



- ✓ **Grass clippings** (after drying in a thin layer or mixed with structure rich material)
- ✓ **Leaves**
- ✓ **Tree and hedge trimming** (cut or shredded)
- ✓ **Kitchen scraps** (Fruit and vegetable waste, coffee and tea filters, eggshells, small quantities of tropical fruit waste *due to fungicidal substance*)
- ✓ **Newspaper or kitchen paper** used as wrapping for kitchen waste (in small quantities)
- ✓ **Untreated wood ash** (in small quantities and well-mixed)

Mix your organic waste!

Branch too big?
Cut it!



- × **Cooked leftover meals**
- × **Dog and cat manure**
- × **Meat, bone, fish and animal fat**
- × **Diseased plant parts and invasive plants**
- × **Glass**
- × **Metal**
- × **Plastic**
- × **Diapers**
- × **Oil and paint**
- × **Coal Ash**
- × **Gutter sludge**
- × **Treated wood**

Never put this into your composter!

Composting requires aeration and Moisture. Don't let the composter get dried out in summer!

After a few month, use your own fertilizer in your garden
– we care for the environment.



Home Composting - Step-by-Step

- 1. Location** Piled up on bare, water permeable ground – avoid extrem weather conditions.
- 2. Pre-Treatment** Shred/cut bulky organic waste (e.g. branches) to approximately 5 cm long pieces.
- 3. Pile-up the heap** First layer: Ca. 20 cm structural material. Add organic waste as it is generated but mix soft and structural waste for aeration and don't add too much of the same material at once. Ideally, your kitchen waste is covered with compost or soil.
- 4. Turning** Turn the heap every three month – ideally from one compartment side to the other.
- 5. Care** Don't let it dry out and ensure aeration by adding twigs, especially to soft material (e.g. grass).
- 6. Final** After 3-4 month, you produced fresh compost and after 6-12 months mature compost, which smells like damp forest soil. Ideally, the final compost is being sived into fine compost, mulch and coarse material. Compost can be used during the growing period as soil improver or mulch. Fine material especially for sprinkling lawns or flower beds. Coarse material shall be retuned into the heap. For some plants, compost is not suitable, e.g. Rhododendron. Avoid overdosing.
- 7. Storage** Compost can be stored, idellay covered. The ability to enrich soil is decreasing while stored.



**Composting reduces emissions on the landfill
– we care for the environment.**