

# Making compost

*Composting is a natural process but a little help speeds things up*

## Where to compost

- Easy access location
- Sunny or part-shaded
- On to soil, grass or concrete

## Compost bins need...

- Wide opening for adding waste
- Lid to keep heat in and rain out
- Strength to hold contents

## Getting the right mix

### 'Greens'

(*'activate' the process, but decay to a smelly mess on their own*)

Grass, soft green plant shoots

Green weeds (avoid seedheads)

Raw vegetable and fruit peelings

Comfrey and nettle leaves (very good activators)

Tea bags/leaves; coffee grounds

Horse, cattle, poultry manure

### 'Browns'

(*balance the process, but decay too slowly on their own*)

Woody plant shoots, tough hedge clippings (cut up)

Cardboard, eg cereal packets, egg boxes

Scrunched-up waste paper, magazines, newspaper (some, recycle rest)

Hay, straw, shredded paper, wood shavings

Bedding from herbivorous pets, eg guinea pigs

50% / 50%

## Add mix to cool or hot heap (or combination)

### Cool heap

Ready in 12-18 months

### Hot heap

Ready in 6-12 months

Bit by bit / All at once  
ADDING MIX

Now and then / Again and again  
TURNED OVER

#### Caution

- Compost perennial weed roots after 12 months in a plasticsack, eg for dandelion
- Diseased plant material

#### Do not compost

Meat, fish, cooked food, cat litter, dog faeces, coal and coke ash, disposable nappies, glass, plastic, metal

Illustrations: Verity Thompson

## Further information

Garden Organic home composting [www.homecomposting.org.uk](http://www.homecomposting.org.uk)

Community Composting Network [www.communitycompost.org](http://www.communitycompost.org)

'All about compost' by Pauline Pears and Charlotte Green

[www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools)



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