

# Making Compost

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**Not only is composting fun, it is also very easy! Just follow the steps below.**

## Step 1 – Placing your bin

The first thing to do is to select a spot to set up your bin. It should be out of the way but easy to reach and with plenty of room to work around. A good place would be near your garden or in a back corner of a yard. It is also a good idea to choose a location that is sunny and close to a source of water.

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## Step 2 – Putting things in:

Now for the recipe! The micro-organisms that recycle leaves and other plant parts need an even mix of browns and greens to munch on. They also need air and water to live and work. Put all this together and in time you will have compost! Good greens include vegetable peelings, tea bags, plant and grass cuttings. Good browns include paper, fallen leaves and egg boxes.

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## Step 3 – Keep out!

There are certain items that should never be placed in your compost bin. Don't use meat, milk products or cooked vegetables because pets and other animals may try to dig them out of your compost bin. Also, don't use diseased garden plants, as they can spread disease back into the garden later when you use the compost.

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## Step 4 – Making good compost

The key to good compost lies in getting the right mix. You need to keep your greens and browns properly balanced. If your compost is too wet, add more browns. If it is too dry, add more greens. Making sure that there is enough air in the mixture is also important. Adding scrunched-up bits of cardboard is a simple way to create air pockets that will help keep your compost healthy. Air can also be added by mixing the contents in the compost bin. After approximately six to nine months your compost will be ready.

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## Step 5 – Using your compost

Your compost is ready when it is dark in colour and has an earthy smell. It has a spongy texture and is rich in nutrients. When the compost appears to be ready, take some from the bottom of the pile, put it on your garden and watch those plants grow!

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