



Sustainability | Environment | Education

COMPOSTING - Benefits & How To



Composting is like baking a cake!

You need to 'mix' dry ingredients, which help keep your compost airy and balanced, with wet ingredients (examples of both below), which help fuel the breakdown process, to create beautiful compost - also known as nutrient-rich 'garden dirt'.

Dry stuff (Brown / Carbon)

-  Dried brown grass clippings
-  Dried leaves, crushed leaves, twigs
-  Ripped/shredded paper + paper towel
-  Vacuum cleaner dust
-  Egg shells
-  Magazines (due to chemical coating)
-  Bread
-  Meat or dairy (attracts pests & smells)

Wet stuff (Green / Nitrogen)

-  Fruit & vegetable scraps
-  Tea bags
-  Coffee grounds
-  Citrus
-  Onions
-  Oils

EASY RULE:

If it grows from the ground, it can go back into the ground!

BONUS BOOSTERS: A little horse manure or chook poo helps heat things up and break down faster!



BUILD IT, LAYER IT, TURN IT!

1. Build it in Layers:

Alternate dry and wet ingredients (like making a lasagna!).



2. Add Air - Turn it!

Turn the pile regularly. The more you turn it, the faster it breaks down.



3. Check Moisture:

Your compost should feel like a wrung-out sponge. Too wet? Add more dry stuff Too dry? Add more wet stuff



4. When it's Full:

Start a second bin/pile and let the first one mature. Keep turning the first pile weekly.



It's ready when...

It looks like dark, rich soil and smells earthy (not stinky!).



Want to speed things up? Try chopping or shredding your scraps into smaller pieces and keep it in a sunny spot where the warmth can help it along. A handy little trick is to collect your fruit and veggie scraps in a container in the fridge until you're ready to add them to your compost pile or bin.



Sustainability | Environment | Education

Compost in a Pile, a Bucket or a Tumbler!



HOW TO Compost in a pile:

- Make a big pile of dry ingredients
- Create a hole in the middle
- Add wet ingredients
- Mix it with a shovel or fork (great exercise!)
- Leave gaps in the pile so air can pass through
- Cover with hessian, a shade sail or even palm leaves
- Weigh down edges with rocks to help stop rodents

TIMING: Around 6 weeks with good mixing and warmth



HOW TO Compost in a bucket:

- Add a layer of dry
- Add a layer of wet
- Repeat (dry → wet → dry → wet...)
- Aim for: about 70% dry and 30% wet
- Roll/tumble the bin, or shake the container regularly
- Leave the lid slightly ajar for airflow
- Put it in the sun to warm up

TIMING: Usually 4-6 weeks with good mixing and warmth



HOW TO Compost in a tumbler:

These are fantastic! Simply add your fruit and veggie scraps and dry material like leaves or grass, then give your tumbler a spin! Turning helps mix in air, speeding up the composting process. Keep the mixture damp, but not soggy, and you'll have rich, healthy compost in no time!



Sustainability | Environment | Education

Helpful insects you might see (and why they're good!)



Ants

Eat fungi, seeds, old food, and other insects
Can increase phosphorus and potassium by bringing minerals into the compost



Sow Bugs / Slaters

Flat oval bugs with segmented bodies
Eat rotting plants and old wood-based materials



Flies (including Black Soldier Fly)

Help spread decomposer bacteria around the pile
If flies are too many: cover scraps with more dry carbon (leaves, grass clippings, sawdust)
Fly larvae can look like maggots but if meat/bread have not been added, don't panic!



Beetles, Grubs & Snails

Eat rotting veg, slugs/snails, and other insects
Grubs are a normal stage before beetles become adults



Springtails

Tiny jumpy insects (often white/blue/black)
Eat mould, fungi, and decomposing plants



Mites

Some eat plant matter, others eat small insects/larvae
Work alongside bacteria to break things down



Sustainability | Environment | Education

MAKING COMPOST DIRT!

Song tune to 'Farmer in the Dell'

We're Making Compost Dirt,
We're Making Compost Dirt,
Grab a bucket and a spoon,
We're Making Compost Dirt.

Time to mow the lawn, brm brm
Time to mow the lawn, brm brm,
Mow it here and mow it there,
It's time to mow the lawn.

Scoop up all the grass,
Scoop up all the grass,
Scoop it here and scoop it there,
Scoop up all the grass.

A Watermelon skin,
An Apple core too,
Save your scraps and put them in,
We're making Compost stew.

Mix it all around,
Mix it all around,
Mix it fast and mix it slow,
Mix it all around.

A long time has passed,
It's turned to dirt at last,
Composting in our gar- ar - den
Composting is a Blaaaaaast!



Scan &
Sing Along!





Don't send us to landfill,



we have work to do!

Composting is a wonderful way to help look after our planet.

When fruit and vegetable scraps are thrown into the rubbish and sent to landfill, they can create methane gasses, which are harmful to the environment. But when we compost instead, we return those natural materials back to the earth where they can break down properly and become rich, healthy soil.

Composting is a simple way to reduce waste, help gardens grow, and give back to nature - just like nature intended.



**Any questions?
Email Lea - The Bug Lady!
info@bugkidz.com.au**