

Directions for Composting

1. **Place composter in a sunny position** – 95°F – 160°F (35°-71°C).
Ideal range: 122°-130°F (50°-55°C).
Higher temperatures, 130°-150°F (55°-65°C), will kill seeds and pathogens, but it's better not to go above these temperatures.
2. **Add compostable materials** – Use 1/3 green to 2/3 brown to ensure a good finished product. Add a handful of fresh topsoil to bring in new microbes. Special accelerents may be used but follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
Best to fill 'The Compost Creator' "HALF WAY, and definitely NOT MORE THAN 2/3 full, as this reduces aeration and kills important microbes. Overloading with green materials, especially grass cuttings, makes the compost too wet, and could also damage your compost tumbler, as the weight would then exceed its working limits.
3. **Tumble 'The Compost Creator' once a week** and whenever you add more. The contents should all turn brown, moist and soil-like, and have an earthy smell in about 2-4 weeks, ready to put on your plants or vegetables.

Compost problems and solutions

What if your composting doesn't seem to be working?

- **Could be too full** – Remove some material, add some soil and turn several times.
- **Check temperature** – Too cold? Move to a sunnier place or cover barrel with insulating material. Too hot? Move to a cool, shady, breezier area.
- **If nothing works** – **empty bin and start again** with step 1, mixing old and new materials.

Ideal Composting Materials: (Note: Your Compost Creator is **rodent proof**)

Green – Rich in nitrogen – 1/3rd

- Bread
- Cooked food
- Dairy products
- Egg shells
- Fruit and vegetables
- Garden/house plants
- Grass cuttings
- Raw meat and bones (sparingly)
- Tea leaves/bags
- Coffee grounds
- Weeds (not any that have gone to seed)

Brown – Carbon rich – 2/3rd

- Bedding from pet cages (rabbits etc)
- Feathers
- Hedge trimmings
- Paper and cardboard
- Straw and hay
- Wood chips and sawdust
- Dried leaves and grass

IMPORTANT – DO NOT ADD

- Dog or cat litter or poo
- Ashes not from wood
- Nappies, glass, plastic, metal
- Toxic materials
- Diseased plants or any gone to seed

Additional Composting Tips

- Maggots help compost, but indicate it may have wet patches
- Breaking material down before adding it will reduce composting time
- Don't add too much meat or grass. It can make the compost too wet and reduce aerobic bacterial growth. It will also make your composter too heavy to turn easily and could damage the structure.
- Make compost tea - nutritious plant food – add a little compost to 4-8 litres of water
- Don't add paper with lead based inks on it
- Avoid repeatedly adding to the same compost batch as this will increase composting time