# Composting


## Did you know?

Over half of the waste we send to landfill in Moreton Bay is organic material such as food scraps and garden waste. Organic materials generate methane, a greenhouse gas, in landfills and contributes to global warming due to their anaerobic decomposition. Not to mention unnecessarily taking up a huge amount of landfill space! These organic materials can be transformed into a valuable resource easily at home in our backyards through composting.

## Compost

Recycling organics can help extend the life of landfills and decrease greenhouse gas emissions while also providing a valuable, free resource for our gardens. Composting is replicating nature's way of recycling by providing the right conditions for bacteria, fungi and small invertebrates to break down organic material. Composting is a great example of closing the loop.

## The A.D.A.M. Principle

### Aliveness

Your compost should be alive with many different critters! There will be micro-organisms working hard to break down your organic material, as well as macro-organisms such as worms, centipedes and slaters.

### Diversity

Like us, our compost bin needs a good balanced diet. Aim to feed your compost roughly a 40/60 balance of nitrogen rich and carbon rich material.

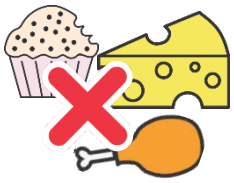
**Nitrogen Rich Material (Green/Wet)**

- ✓ Fruit scraps
- ✓ Vegetable scraps
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Green leaves
- ✓ Flowers
- ✓ Coffee grounds

**Carbon Rich Material (Brown/Dry)**

- ✓ Shredded paper
- ✓ Dry grass clippings
- ✓ Dry leaves
- ✓ Egg cartons
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Tea bags
- ✓ Hay / straw

**Avoid**



- × Meat
- × Dairy
- × Processed food
- × Grains
- × Fats and oils
- × Man-made materials

### Aeration

Use a garden fork to stir your compost and add air. Air helps decompose organic material and also prevents the compost from smelling.

### Moisture

Add a small amount of water to your compost regularly to keep it at a good moisture level.

Do the squeeze test, if water drips out it's too wet, if it crumbles it's too dry, if it just clumps together its perfect!

# Information Sheet

Rethink waste. Let's get it sorted

## Let's set up a compost bin!

1. Set your compost bin up in a sunny position

2. Add a layer of twigs and sticks for drainage

3. Add a layer of nitrogen rich material

4. Add a layer of carbon rich material

5. Add old compost to inoculate/start up

6. Add moisture

7. Aerate the compost

8. Close the lid

## Harvesting your compost

- When your compost is ready, it will be a brown colour, smell earthy and cool to touch
- Use your compost on your garden as nutrient rich soil
- If you have a worm farm, add some of the compost to their bedding, they love it

## Having Trouble?

Slow?

- × Not enough air, no active ingredients
- ✓ Turn heap, add water, manure and nitrogen rich materials

Smelly?

- × Too wet, not enough air, too acidic
- ✓ Turn heap, add carbon rich material

Small flies?

- × Exposed fruit
- ✓ Cover with soil or any brown material

Vermin?

- × Wrong food (no meat, dairy or grains), warm dry nest
- ✓ Remove any breads, grains, meat or dairy, cover entry with wire, turn heap, add moisture

Too wet?

- × Too much nitrogen rich material, not enough air
- ✓ Turn heap, add carbon rich material

Too dry?

- × Too much carbon rich material, not enough moisture
- ✓ Add nitrogen rich material, turn heap, add moisture

Moreton Bay Regional Council