



COMPOSTING – It's easy

Approximately 40 to 50% of household waste is food scraps & garden materials which can be composted. Use this valuable resource to enrich your garden & your health. Play your part to reduce the pollution caused by methane gas & liquid 'leachate' produced by any food scraps & garden materials when buried in landfill.

Getting started

Ideally book in for a Composting Workshop at the Eco House & Garden, at Kimbriki, phone Mon-Fri 9486 3542 or go to www.kimbriki.com ; but if you can't - follow these instructions

You can purchase a

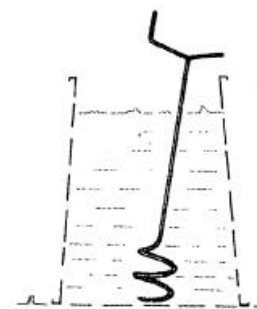
Compost bin 210 litre, black - \$50

Stainless steel spiral tool - \$35

(prices correct July 2012)

from the ANL Vegetation Recycling area at Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre, Kimbriki Rd, Ingleside.

Please be aware that a hatchback, wagon, ute or trailer is needed to transport your bin home. Hardware stores also stock compost bins.



Use the A.D.A.M Principles while composting

A - aliveness – compost is a 'living creature' full of worms & healthy microbes

D - diversity – mix in a variety of ingredients: eg food scraps, dry leaves, fine woody mulch, grass, hair, herbs etc. Diversity (variety) is the spice of life!

A - aeration - aerate your compost regularly, with a spiral mixing tool

M - moisture - keep compost moist at all times

Setting up the bin / heap

- Position the bin in a well drained place (sun or shade is ok)
- Put a layer in base of bin, about 200-300mm (4"-6") deep, of high carbon material, ie finely chopped woody mulch, leafy twiggy materials or 'Forest Fines' purchased from Kimbriki
- Water this layer well
- Add 2 or 3 shovels-full of rich compost, or lovely black, alive soil from your garden. This 'seeds' your compost with the aliveness that does all the work

1 Step by step success

- For every addition of food scraps, add the same amount of 'forest fines' or chopped small woody twigs and leaves, ie 1 bucket of food scraps to 1 bucket of mulch
- Mix with spiral tool – check that the entire heap is moist
- Food scraps must not be left exposed on the surface. Always cover surface with a thin layer of 'forest fines' or chopped small woody twigs and leaves, this reduces flies
Then cover the surface with a 'blanket' (eg hessian sack) to keep the heap moist & dark
- Add other ingredients regularly eg manures, vacuum contents, hair, herbs, weeds, grass, soil

- Add a teaspoon of dolomite (Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner) weekly, to balance acidity
- When bin is full it needs to mature for 6-8 weeks. Keep this maturing bin moist & mix it and add a little dolomite and pelletised manure, weekly
- Start a new bin for your continuing supply of fresh food scraps

1.1 Using Compost

- Compost is ready to use when it is dark & smells earthy (no sharp ammonia smell)
- Place compost around the DRIP-LINE of plants
- Keep compost away from the stems of plants

What about a worm farm?

If you have only food scraps and no garden prunings, consider a worm farm.

You can buy worm farms and worms from some local councils, hardware and garden suppliers.

Compost problem solver

Below are three of the most common problems people have with their compost:

Problem 1 SMELLY

Remedy

Increase AERATION

- add more coarse material
- mix the heap more regularly with spiral mixing tool
- add a handful of dolomite, (Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner)

Problem 2 NOT HEATING UP

Remedy

- Add more NITROGEN material - eg manures, young grass clippings, blood & bone, etc
- Check MOISTURE level - (dry heaps don't heat up!) add more water when mixing
- mix the heap more regularly with spiral mixing tool
- add a handful of dolomite, (Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner)

Problem 3 ATTRACTING VERMIN

Remedy

- Put small mesh chicken wire on the ground under compost bin and fold up the sides and tie, or place a piece of flat gal metal sheet on ground (drill 20 or more drainage holes) and place bin on top of metal sheet.
- Always cover the surface of the heap with a hessian sack or something similar & keep lid on
- Mix the heap more regularly with spiral mixing tool to increase aeration (vermin do not like a disturbance!)
- Keep the heap moist (vermin do not like a damp environment!)
- Add a handful of dolomite (Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner)
- Reduce the amount of cooked meat and bread being added to the heap

Happy Composting!!

For more information

visit www.ecohouseandgarden.com.au

email kimbriki@kimbriki.com

or contact us via Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre

02 9486 3512 Monday-Friday

