



HOME COMPOSTING

Keep your Compostabin working

The hotter your heap, the faster it will produce good compost, and the less weedy your garden compost will be.

Heat is determined by:

Location – put your bin on soil in a sunny place and nature will do most of the rest. The plastic bin absorbs infra red rays from the sun which provide energy to keep the heap working overnight.

Air – the bacteria working on your compostibles need air, so don't pack your heap too tightly, and air will be introduced when you collect your finished compost and fork the unready material back into the bin.

A good mix - a balance of woody and sappy material is just right, especially when a thin (15cm) layer of grass mowings is added regularly.

Moisture – your heap needs to be damp and moist, but not wet. The plastic Compostabin will retain moisture and if you have a mix of woody and sappy material you should have no problems. If you add a lot of dry matter at once you may need to use a watering can to sprinkle on some water. [Remember never to add woodchip, shavings or sawdust to the bin].



Emptying your bin

You can check how well your heap is working by lifting the bin up and away from it. You will see a cone-shaped pile of compostibles, with good mature compost at the bottom. This should take 6-9 months.

To get the good compost, place the bin beside your cone, fork the half-rotted material into it until you reach the well rotted compost to be shovelled away. By forking over the half-rotted compost, you are introducing much needed air to get the new heap off to a good start.

Activator

We have often been asked whether an activator is necessary, and the answer is no, buy another plant with any spare cash you have for the garden. A good balance of materials is all you need.

Remember to keep using the bin all year round. During the winter, you will only have soggy kitchen scraps, so be sure to add in scrumpled envelopes and newspaper to absorb the surplus moisture.



For further information about home composting:



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