

WHAT TO COMPOST



Home composting is environmentally friendly and helps you to deal with kitchen and garden waste. Homemade compost makes an excellent soil improver. It adds free nutrients for your garden plants. To make the best compost at home, it's important to get a balance of green and brown matter. The table below is intended as a guide to the best general Green and Brown matter to use.

GREEN	BROWN
Animal manure (from herbivores)	Cardboard
Aquarium plants	Corn stalks
Bread	Dried leaves
Coffee grounds	Dry lint
Crumbs	Egg shells
Evergreen garlands	Fur
Food scraps	Hair
Grass cuttings	Home brewing wastes
Herbs & spices	Old bedding plants
Leaves	Nail clippings
Loose leaf tea	Natural fibres (wool and cotton)
Nettles (excluding roots)	Newspaper
Plant leaves	Paper bags
Poultry manure	Sawdust (treated)
Rotten fruit	Shredded newspaper
Rotten vegetable	Straw
Seaweed	Tough hedge clippings
Soft green prunings	Twigs
Tea bags	Used paper napkins and paper towels
Uncooked fruit	Waste-paper
Uncooked vegetable	Wood ash (in moderation)
Uncooked peelings	Wooden chopsticks
Unpopped popcorn	Wooden toothpicks
Young weeds	Woody pruning



WHAT NOT TO COMPOST



Avoiding the items below helps you to make better compost. Avoid adding items that attract garden pests, such as dairy and meat. Layering the green and brown matter helps to prevent unwanted odours and helps to aerate the soil. A good balance of green and brown matter to aim for is: 25% brown and 50% green. This ratio helps to feed the micro-organisms and helps to stop your compost getting too wet. The table below is intended as a guide for Green and Brown matter to avoid using.

GREEN	BROWN
Baked goods	Black walnut tree debris
Blood	Cat litter
Bones	Charcoal ash
Butter	Cigarette butts
Chicken scraps	Coal / coke ash
Citrus fruit peels	Coated cardboard packaging
Cooked grains	Coffee pods
Cooked oils	Dead animals
Dairy products	Diseased plants
Eggs	Disposable nappies
Fats	Glossy paper
Fish scraps	Large branches
Garlic scraps	Leather goods
Grease	Manure from sick animals
Infested plants	Pet waste (dog or cat)
Mayonnaise	Printed paper
Meat scraps	Sawdust (untreated)
Naturally toxic plants	Synthetic fertilizer
Onions	Synthetic soaps
Pasta	Treated lumber
Plants (treated pesticides /preservatives)	Used personal products (plasters)
Rice	Vacuum cleaner contents
Peanut butter	Walnuts
Salad dressing	Wood (treated pesticides /preservatives)