

# How to Make A DIY Compost Bin

## *First Off, What Is Composting/Composting?*

- *Compost is simply decayed organic matter — and the term "organic matter" is pretty broad. A twig can be organic matter, but a banana peel can be as well. When you mix a bunch of these materials together in a compost pile, they naturally decompose into a fertilizer rich in nutrients that helps your gardens grow.*

## *Why Is It Good to Compost?*

- *Compost is good for the environment! The primary reason is your organic waste will not add to landfills. Disposing of your clippings and food scraps into a compost pile, you save precious space in landfills, which is where they will otherwise end up.*

*Now you are ready to create your own compost bin!*

*Here's what you need...*

- *One large bin (Garbage bin or Tupperware bin)*
- *One small bin (An 4 gallon bin or a ice cream pale will do just fine)*
- *One electric drill.*
- *Dirt*
- *Brown matter (Infographic attached will explain)*
- *Green matter (Infographic attached will explain)*
- *Water*

*Step One:*

*Drill Holes into the base of your bigger bin. Drill about eight to ten small holes on the bottom for aeration purposes.*



*Step Two:*

*Place some "Brown Matter" on the bottom of your compost bin, filling it about 1/8 – 1/4 full. (The infographic below will give some examples of brown matter).*



*Step Three:*

*Place dirt on top of the leaves or newspaper until the container is 1/2 full.*



*Step Four:*

*Now place any Green Matter and/or Brown Matter that you'd like to compost on top of the dirt. (The infographic below will give some examples of Green Matter).*



*Step Five:*

*Give your compost a little stir with a shovel or stick, making sure to cover your organic with dirt.*



*Step Six:*

*Spray with lukewarm water until moist, but not soaking wet. (Note: too much water can be the reason if your compost starts to smell).*



*Step Seven:*

*Use your drill to make eight to ten small holes in the lid and place it securely on top of the bin. These will help with aeration as well.*



*Step Eight:*

*Place the bin away from the house in a shady area (if you live in an apartment or don't have a backyard you can put your bin in the patio). Be sure it's not in full sun, or it will dry out your compost.*

*Step Nine:*

*Now that your compost bin is complete. You can start collecting green matter from your meals and place them into your smaller bin until you add them into your compost pile. When ready, add the brown matter from around the house and green matter from your smaller bin and add them to the compost pile, make sure to stir the pile after every addition.*

## A Few Composting Tips!

- Once the compost is a texture that is crumbly and smooth and has a dark, rich colour; it is ready to use!
- A good pile of compost would contain a lot more carbon than nitrogen. The use of one-third green matter and two-thirds brown matter is a basic rule of thumb.
- Do not compost fats, pet droppings or animal products. They will attract pests to the pile and can spread disease.

## What Can Go into A Compost Bin?

*This Infographic will show you what kind of "Organic Matter" can go into your newly made compost bin.*

*\*All kinds of paper can be used just resist to use paper with gloss or lots of coloured ink.*

### Water

*The microorganisms and insects that help your compost pile decompose need water to survive like we do. The right amount of water helps these organisms thrive and turn your compost into usable form quickly. Water also helps regulate a pile's temperature.*

### Brown Matter

*Brown matter is the carbon rich matter that goes into a compost pile.*

*Popular examples of Brown Matter:*

*Pine needles*

*Leaves*

*Newspaper\**

*Wood chips*

### Green Matter

*Green Matter is the nitrogen rich matter that goes into a compost pile.*

*Popular examples of Green Matter:*

*Lawn & garden weeds*

*Grass clippings*

*Fruit and vegetable scraps*

*Coffee grounds*