



Kids Projects

Create a compost heap

1. Choose a spot for your compost that is shaded in summer.
2. You can make your compost in a container or simply build a heap on the ground. The container should have an open bottom so that the contents of the compost will always be in contact with the soil (a garbage bin with its base cut off would be a good, not-too-expensive suggestion).
3. Compost is made up of a mixture of 'greens' and 'browns'. Browns are things like straw, dry leaves and torn-up newspapers. Common 'greens' are grass clippings and vegie scraps.
4. Build up layers of greens and browns (usually more browns than greens) and add the occasional sprinkle of animal manure or organic fertiliser (like blood and bone).
5. Water each layer to keep it moist. You can even throw in leftover drinks.
6. Use a fork to turn the heap every few days. This gets lots of air into the mix and speeds up the composting process.
7. When the compost is crumbly and dark, it's ready to add to your soil or mix into pots.
8. Don't put meat, fish, dairy foods or oil into the compost. Avoid large pieces (they'll take too long to break down) and weeds with seeds, bulbs or runners. Don't use diseased plants or lawn clippings that have been recently treated with weedkillers.

Remember to always:

- Wash your hands well after gardening.
- Wear shoes to protect your feet.
- Wear a hat and sunscreen.