



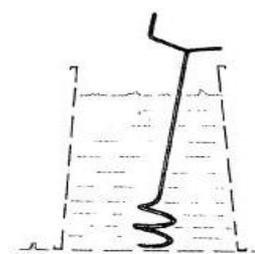
COMPOSTING – It's easy

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 Tumbleweed compost bins and turning tools at Kimbriki Ecohouse & Garden or most hardware and garden centres
Eg New Leaf Nursery, Powderworks Rd, Elanora**



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 Tumbleweed blanket or 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 (Tumbleweed 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

2. 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 (the most active feeding zone) and cover with mulch.
- Keep compost away from the stems of plants to allow airflow.

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 Kimbriki Ecohouse & Garden, 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, (Tumbleweed 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, (Tumbleweed Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner)

Problem 3 ATTRACTING VERMIN

Remedy

- Put small wire mesh (eg Snake & Mouse mesh – Bunnings) on the ground under compost bin, or place a piece of flat galvanised 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 Tumbleweed blanket or 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 (Tumbleweed 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

