



Using Your Community Compost

Your community compost is specifically for household food waste. Composting your food waste is a great way to significantly cut down on your household waste.

What goes in the compost?

The compost is for uncooked food and fresh plant matter. You also need to put in dry material. These two types of waste are called the greens and browns. Greens are the fresh waste and browns are the dead and dry material.

It is important to **aim for a 50-50 mix of green and brown waste**. Getting the mix right means that you are creating the right conditions for efficient composting.

<p>YES to green waste such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncooked fruit and vegetable matter: peelings, cores, scraps – mouldy and rotten can also go in• Tea bags (check for plastic!)• Coffee grounds and filters• Cut flowers and houseplant leaves• Egg shells (including shells from boiled eggs)• Bedding from rabbits, hamsters (i.e. pets that don't eat meat) <p>Please note: Chop up any big bits of vegetable waste, especially root vegetables, pumpkins, squashes and melons. Leaving large vegetables or fruits whole means they take much longer to break down and can cause problems in the compost.</p>	<p>YES to brown waste such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dead and dry plant material, such as twigs and woody prunings• Woodchips/shavings (untreated wood only)• Sawdust (untreated wood only, sprinkled in thin layers)• Shredded/ripped up paper (office paper, brown envelope paper - remove sellotape/plastic)• Ripped up cardboard (egg boxes, pizza boxes, toilet roll inners, brown cardboard – remove any sellotape/plastic)• Wooden toothpicks, plastic-free cotton buds, cotton wool, pencil shavings
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The green material adds water to your compost, and water is necessary to maintain the life of the microorganisms that work to break down the contents of the compost.

The brown materials provide an internal structure for the compost, meaning that air can access and water can pass through. Together, the greens and browns create healthy conditions in your compost.

Remember: You want to aim for 50-50 mix of greens and browns!

What to NOT put in the compost

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooked food and scraps from your plate• Meat and dairy products• Bread or pasta• Large quantities of garden waste, especially cut grass, large branches and long stringy roots and twines• Large amounts of newspaper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compostable plastic – it does not break down well• Glossy or plastic-coated paper or card• Nappies or wet wipes• Cigarette butts• Dog or cat waste, or cat litter• Glass, metal, plastic – most of that can go in your recycling bin
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Caring for your caddy

You can use a caddy to collect your kitchen waste, or any container with a lid.

You can just drop the food waste into your caddy as it is. Alternatively, you can line your caddy to make the cleaning of it easier. Here is what you can use:

- The lid of an egg box, placed in the bottom of the caddy
- Paper bags, such as what you get with fast food takeouts
- 1-2 sheets of newspaper (no more as they will clump together in the compost)

You should regularly clean your caddy/container. You can rinse it with water, or clean it with warm soapy water.

Taking your food waste to the community compost

When your caddy is full, it's time to drop the contents off to the community compost.

Remember to lock the compost bin after yourself and scramble the lock, so that it can't be accessed by people other than those who know how to use it correctly.

Fruit flies

Small fruit flies are very common during the warmer months. They pose no harm to human health but can be annoying some compost users. They are usually only visible when the lid is opened. Large flies (bluebottles/blowflies) should not be a problem in the community compost, as long as you don't put in meat or dairy waste.

Fruit flies can be an indicator that the compost is too wet. You can help with this by making bringing in more "brown" material such as ripped up cardboard or shredded paper.

For more information, contact Compost Works at info@compostworks.co.uk