

The basics

There are a variety of options for composting. Popular options you could consider are: compost bin, bokashi bin or worm farm. You can buy these from hardware stores or make your own.



Greens and browns

Each compost method will require a different composition of greens and browns. These are:



Why compost



Almost 50% of household rubbish to landfill is organic waste – this is food waste, lawn clippings and garden waste.

When you put organic waste into your rubbish bag or bin it ends up in the landfill. Organic waste in the landfill does not compost. It undergoes anaerobic decomposition (because of the lack of oxygen) and generates methane. The methane needs to be captured and specially treated.

Be part of the solution – composting:

- ✓ Improves soil fertility and texture, and retains moisture and nutrients.
- ✓ It is inexpensive and easy to do.
- ✓ Compost rich solid grows healthier, more productive plants.
- ✓ It's a better use of resources than ending up in the landfill.

TRC #1870788

We Can Compost



Guide to garden composting
for the Taranaki region

Choose a site

Compost bins should be located in a sheltered level area of the garden with good drainage and access. The site should be in a warm spot but not in full sun.

What to add to your compost bin



Avoid

- ✗ Meat
- ✗ Fish
- ✗ Oils
- ✗ Dairy products
- ✗ Bones
- ✗ Glass
- ✗ Plastic
- ✗ Garden weeds

Add your waste layer by layer



Hint: Kitchen and garden material will compost much quicker when chipped, chopped or crushed into smaller pieces. Soak paper and cardboard in water prior to composting.

Keep it moist

Keep the pile moist like a sponge, but not soggy wet as this will stop the air circulating.



Cover your compost with a lid. This keeps the heat in and traps moisture. Newspaper and cardboard can help if it gets too wet.

Turn, turn, turn

You should try and turn your compost regularly to increase air circulation, ensuring that there is an adequate supply of oxygen to aid the break down process.

Harvest

Lift the bin off.



The mature compost is ready to use.

Put the partly composted material at the top back into the empty bin.