

# HOW TO MAKE A COMPOST HEAP

Instead of sending your kitchen and garden waste to a landfill, make your own nutritiously rich compost heap:

Buy or make your own compost bin (the bigger, the better).

Find an area of your garden that is shaded; placing the compost bin straight on top of soil is best.

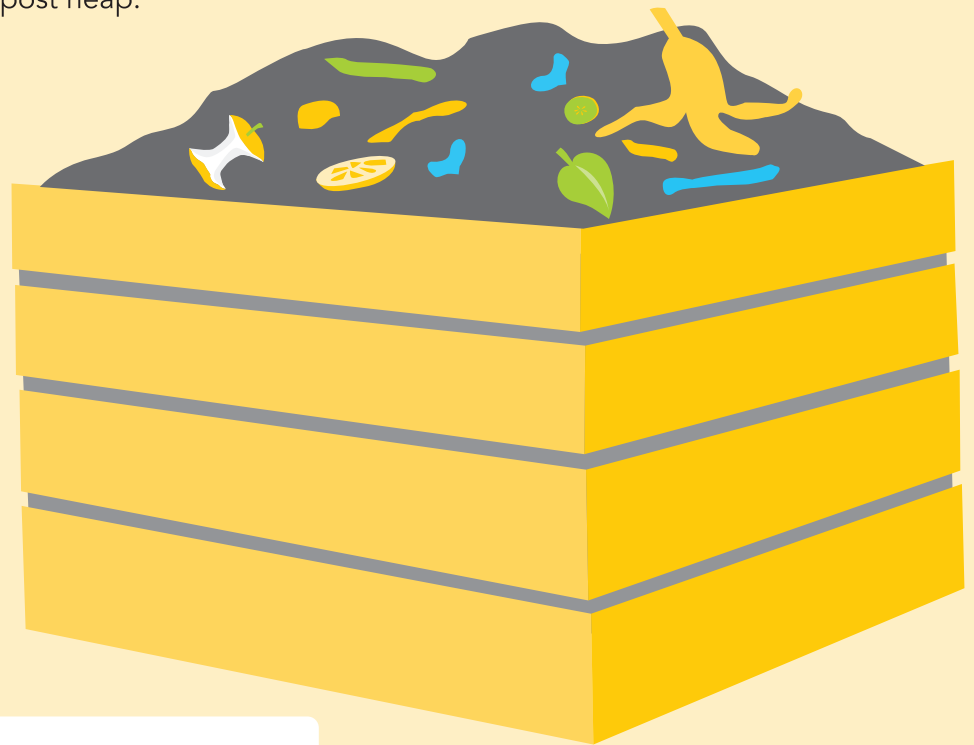
Add up to 50 percent of “green” material—including food waste (not meat!), grass clippings, leafy plants, weeds—and the rest “brown” material—e.g., prunings, hedge trimmings, leaves, paper or card (in small pieces), plant stems, straw, and mulch.

Turn the waste frequently (every week) to allow air into it.

You should get good results within between six months and two years.

## Did you know?

A year of composting offsets the CO<sub>2</sub> that a coffee maker generates annually and that a washing machine produces in three months.



## Composting—top tips

Keep the heap moist and loose.

If the heap becomes slimy and smelly, there is too much “green” material (like grass cuttings) and it is too moist—counter the problem by adding more “brown” material (like dead leaves) and covering the heap to protect it from the rain.

If the heap is too dry and doesn’t look like it’s breaking down, try adding more green waste to it and a little water.

If your heap is attracting flies, make sure your kitchen waste is well hidden under other material.



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