

COMPOST THE RIGHT WAY!

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The experience gained from having
sold over 3 million composters!

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Compost – active steps to protect the environment



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There are no hidden secrets when it comes to composting organic waste. It is simply a case of layering organic waste with the aim of breaking down the organic material with the aid of microorganisms in the presence of oxygen. The end product is known as compost.

Compost is a valuable soil improver for your garden. The benefit of high-quality compost has been scientifically proven. Unlike simply adding mineral fertilisers, compost retains and improves the soil fertility.

Another positive result of composting at home is that it can reduce your household waste by up to 30%. Composting at home is a way of actively protecting the environment. GARANTIA® composters will help you do this!

This brochure contains important information and tips about composting.

They should make it easier for you to compost successfully. If you follow these tips, you can look forward to perfect compost – from which your garden and the environment will benefit!

We hope you enjoy using your GARANTIA® composter and wish you every success.

Composting helps you save money:

- **save on** domestic waste charges
- **save on** the cost of a bio-waste container
- **save on** fertiliser because compost is very rich in nutrients



The right location for your composter



Before setting up and filling your composter, find the right location for it. Note the following:

When choosing a location, ensure that your composter is easy to access from the house and garden. The location should also be easily accessible with a wheelbarrow. Think of your neighbours and install it at least 0.5 m away from their property.

Install your composter directly on the ground. This allows microorganisms to access your composter. You should fit grating (accessory) on the base of your composter to protect against rodents.

Loosen compressed ground before installing. Concrete, stone and asphalt bases are not suitable under your composter.

The contents will rot in no time if you install the composter in the sun or semi-shade, under trees or a hedge for example. The composter needs the heat of the sun to evaporate water from its contents, but it mustn't dry out completely – because moisture is important for the rotting process (but not wet conditions/stagnant moisture). It should be installed in a position protected from the worst of the wind.

Buy a closed GARANTIA composter, which offers protection against drying out, getting too wet and damage from birds and pets.



Grating (accessory)

You can get started now!



TIP

If you have any active compost, this can be added to added to the bottom layer.

The better the compost is mixed, the easier and better it rots. You shouldn't fill the composter in one go. Instead, fill it slowly with organic waste produced on a daily basis. Kitchen waste has a high water content. Ensure good aeration – a sufficient supply of oxygen is very important. Wet materials should be mixed with dry ones and coarse materials with fine ones.

Remember:

Your composter isn't a rubbish heap you can throw anything onto without consideration. If it is to fulfil its function, you must selectively add raw materials.

When first filling, use a bulky structured material, such as broken twigs, to form the bottom layer. This makes it easier for air to enter the compost from below and excess water can drain off better. Ensure as good a mix of garden and kitchen waste as possible in the layers that follow.

Composting in the winter

You can compost in the winter too. In order to perfectly compost wet kitchen waste produced in the winter, the dry leaves and shredded garden waste collected in the autumn should be added to the compost. The contents of the composter break down slower during the cold winter months, but the process is continuous as microorganism activity produces heat.

Sorting is very important!



What to put in the compost:

Fruit and vegetable waste, coffee grounds, tea leaves, eggshell (crushed), pot plants, cut flowers, spent potting soil, lawn cuttings and leaves

TIP

Wet materials should be mixed with dry ones and coarse materials with fine ones. If well aerated, there is nothing to stop you producing good compost. Ensure that the compost is damp. Compost mustn't be too dry or too wet!

What *not* to put in the compost:

Meat, fish, leftover food, bread, sausage, cheese rind, bones, diseased plants, coal or charcoal ash, cigarettes, Hoover bags, litter, medicines and nutshells.

The recipe for successful compost



Lawn cuttings

Fresh lawn cuttings contain a lot of water. To prevent a thick layer of lawn cuttings in the composter will stick together and seal the compost so air can't enter. If this happens, rotting will occur and cause a bad smell.

TIP

Dry the cuttings after mowing and only then add them to the compost. Only add small amounts of cuttings at a time. If this isn't possible, freshly mown lawn cuttings should be mixed well with old compost material or dry leaves or prunings to ensure that air can get in easily.

Leaves

Leaves must be crushed/finely chopped before being added to the composter. This prevents them from forming an airtight layer.

TIP

Adding dry leaves when composting wet kitchen waste in the winter is a good idea. Create a stockpile and gradually add to the compost along with kitchen waste.

Prunings

Prunings must be chopped before being added to the compost. Chopped wood is very good as structural material. Added every now and then as a thin layer, this ensures that the compost is always well vented and aerated.

TIP

Because you will need leaves and prunings when mixing the content of the compost, storing the material next to the composter makes it readily available. The GARANTIA® universal round container shown can be used **TONI**.

Peel from citrus fruits and banana skins

Citrus fruits can be composted on a domestic scale. Because the fruits often have a waxy layer, they rot more slowly and should therefore be cut up. Any pesticide remaining on the peel will break down during the composting process. It is best to buy citrus fruits that haven't been sprayed. Add chopped banana skins and citrus fruit peelings.