

# Conservation

One of the most important things that can be done in any household is to make compost. This is where items such as teabags, egg shells, fruit and vegetable peelings, paper, cardboard, grass cuttings, leaves and dead flowers are placed in a large bin or heap in the garden and left to rot. They eventually turn into a rich mixture, so this, not only means you get rid of waste from your house in an environmentally friendly way, but you also produce a fertiliser for your soil.



compost heap would be more suitable as a bin would be too small and fill quickly. Your compost heap should be placed out of direct sunlight and heavy rain, as decomposition may not occur if the waste is too dry or too wet.

When you add waste it is best to make layers of about 7-8 inches and cover each one with soil so as to keep away flies. It is also a good idea to add some lime to each layer and water when it gets dry. Some manure can help speed

## Composting

Any house with a garden could make compost.

Although not everyone has a garden or space to make compost, you may have a friend or neighbour that would love to have your household waste for his or her compost. A compost bin is ideal for small gardens and should have holes underneath. If you have a large garden and lots of household and garden waste then a

up the process, as can turning it with a garden fork every few days and covering it in soil. It may then take only a few weeks to turn into perfect compost. When it gives off an earthy smell and crumbles like earth it is ready to use. It can be put around vegetables, trees and even in potting plants.

### Good Composting Items

kitchen scraps (uncooked items)  
 fruits & vegetables  
 banana skins  
 old potting soil/mix  
 paper/cardboard  
 twigs  
 leaves  
 tea bags  
 feathers  
 vacuum bag wastes  
 grass cuttings  
 seaweed  
 grains & rice  
 flour & oatmeal  
 stale bread  
 newsprint (b&w)  
 manures  
 egg shells  
 wood chips



fish scraps (buried)  
 straw and hay  
 pine needles  
 hair (human, animal)  
 wood shavings  
 natural fibres (cotton, linen, wool)  
 coffee grounds (with paper filter)  
 crop waste  
 flowers  
 bone meal  
 seashells (crushed)  
 peanut shells  
 yard waste  
 melon rind  
 potato peels  
 sawdust (not treated)  
 corncobs  
 ground bones  
 weeds (most, but not all)



### Bad Composting Items

meat  
 grease, fat or oil  
 dairy products  
 unground bones  
 used kitty litter  
 treated wood  
 poultry  
 non-organics (e.g. plastics)  
 coloured newsprint  
 treated sawdust  
 heavily coloured paper  
 pressure treated wood  
 plywood  
 particle board  
 chunks of wood & branches  
 perennial or treated weeds  
 metals

