

Making Compost

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There are usually quantities of leaves, grass clippings, vegetable and fruit scraps, weeds etc. around Communities and Homelands. Rather than leave these materials to dry out and blow away, they can be used to make compost in a compost bin.

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Compost Bins are usually black or dark green and when placed in the garden, become hot and humid inside. This stimulates the rotting process of all weeds, leaves, grass clippings and vegetable material in the bin.

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How to Start a Compost Bin.

- a. Buy a Compost Bin from a Hardware or Garden Store and place it in the garden on soft, moist soil.
- b. Take the lid off and put a mix of leaves and weeds on the floor of the bin. Make this layer about 250 mm thick. It may take some weeks to finish this layer.
- c. Put a layer of animal manure about 50 mm thick on top of the leaf and weed layer .
- d. Then add a layer of soil about 50 mm thick.
- e. Keep repeating the layers until the bin is full. Vegetable and fruit scraps, lawn clippings etc. can be substituted or added to the leaf and weed layer.
- f. The lid on the bin keeps the flies out and the moisture in, thus assisting the rotting process.
- g. Buy a second bin so the composting process can continue. A full bin is composted in about 3 months.

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Sheets of corrugated iron about 1.2 metres long and steel droppers can be used to make an open Compost Bin. Use the same method of making layers and sprinkle with water to keep the material moist.

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Place Compost Bin say 3 metres from the base of the tree on soft moist soil.