

# Your guide to a greener environment



## What is a compost?

A compost is part of a recycling system. The compost is a place or container where biodegradable household and/or garden waste is put and then turned into soil, which you can recycle. Everything is done naturally as the compost should only consist of biodegradable content.



## Why should you compost?

Composting is an excellent soil improver. Garden compost increases the soil's topsoil content while household compost adds nutrients, a perfect combo. Composting your household and/or garden waste is good for the environment, bacteria and small animals. You can even reuse what you've composted, isn't that a good thing?



## Where should you place your compost?

Finding a good place for your compost is important. It's best to choose a shady spot and make sure it has a drainage or dense surface. Remember to place the compost on a flat surface close to the house. However, don't forget your neighbors when choosing a place for the compost.

## Common problems that may occur

- ✓ For wet compost: feed it with slightly drier waste such as garden waste, feeding it with coarser garden material can be useful for creating air pockets.
- ✓ For dry compost: water it gently or feed it with a little moister waste. The compost has probably received too much dry waste
- ✓ The compost smells: it can be caused by many things, is it too poorly ventilated or too wet? Try stirring more frequently and mixing in materials that soak up liquid.
- ✓ Flies/fly larvae in the compost: stir and ventilate the compost. Remember that when adding new waste, it should be stirred down a little and covered with material that has already begun to decompose.

## What can you compost?

### From the kitchen

- Dairy products
- Meat, fish or seafood leftovers
- Eggs and eggshells
- Vegetable and fruit scraps
- Cut flowers and house plants
- Egg cartons and household paper towels
- Coffee grounds, filter bags, and tea leaves

### From the garden

- Weeds, grass clippings
- Barrels and leaves
- Fallen fruit
- Cuttings from plants

## What can't you compost?

- Plastics, metals, glass, rubber, and fabrics
- Chemicals and other environmentally hazardous waste
- Cigarette butts
- Lime and wood ash
- Materials from cats, birds, and rodents



## What can you use the composted material for?

As composted material is biodegradable household and/or garden waste that has been broken down into soil, you can easily use it in your garden and flower beds. Simple and easy!

### Tips!

Keep in mind that household compost contains a lot of nutrients and should therefore be mixed with regular garden soil. One part household compost to three parts garden soil.

## Good to remember when composting

**Composting food waste:** you need an approved container that can withstand rodent infestation

**Composting garden waste:** you don't need a container, but it can be handy.

The compost is ready when you have a coarse layer of soil, it can take between 2-4 months or up to a year depending on the material in the compost.

Always dig out soil from the bottom of a composter.

Compost when it's cold? It's perfectly fine!

**For the winter:** cover the garden compost with leaves.