



Composting Fact Sheet



Home composting is one of the most natural and efficient ways to recycle.

It is easy to do, cheap and provides many benefits:

- helps to keep water in the soil
- improves soil structure and adds nutrients
- reduces the cost of waste disposal to the community
- reduces greenhouse gases produced by rotting material in landfill
- saves landfill space



Did you know ...

about **one-quarter** of the waste sent to landfill is organic material that could be composted?

What you can compost

Any item that was once part of a living thing can be composted. Some common items include:

High Carbon ('dry')

Wood chips and twigs
Sawdust
Paper
Straw
Hay
Dry leaves
Nut shells

High Nitrogen ('wet')

Chicken manure
Fresh grass clippings
Fresh weeds
Other manure
Vegetable scraps
Coffee grounds
Fruit waste



Compost Tips

Composting is like making a lasagne – you need to balance the ingredients and make thin layers.

The basic ingredients are:

- the right balance of carbon and nitrogen materials;
- microorganisms (make your heap on the ground, add some soil or old compost or use an inoculant);
- moisture (should be like a wrung-out sponge);
- air (turn your heap often or insert air holes); and
- time.

Compost Troubleshooting

If your compost is sloppy, smelly or full of flies – you may have too much nitrogen, acidic food scraps or moisture. Add more dry carbon materials. Lime can help to balance the pH if your compost is too acidic and attracting small vinegar flies. Bad smells may indicate a lack of air – time to turn your compost!

If your compost does not break down – you may have too much dry material or too little nitrogen. Add some water and/or wet nitrogen materials. It also may mean your compost needs turning.

For more information or to find out about free composting and worm farming sessions contact the Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority Project and Education Officer (details at the top of the page), or go to the FRWA website at www.frwa.com.au