

**COMPOST NEEDS THE RIGHT RATIOS OF: WATER + AIR + CARBON (BROWN MATERIAL) & NITROGEN (GREEN MATERIAL)**

**CARBON**

**BROWN + DRY MATERIALS**

Dry sawdust

Dry leaves

Hay, straw, dry grass

Brown pine needles

Dead plant material like Ponga fronds

Tree branches & twigs

**NITROGEN**

**GREEN + WET MATERIALS**

Tea bags

Coffee grounds

Food scraps

Green leaves

Fresh plant clippings

Flowers

Lawn clippings

Animal poo for example cow,

horse and sheep



**You can make compost bins using recycled products such as pallets:**

[www.parakore.maori.nz/assets/Resources/How-To-Recycle/Compost-Bins-1.pdf](http://www.parakore.maori.nz/assets/Resources/How-To-Recycle/Compost-Bins-1.pdf)

**Rodent proof your bin:**

[www.predatorfreenz.org/toolkits/backyards-toolkit/how-rodent-proof-compost-bin/](http://www.predatorfreenz.org/toolkits/backyards-toolkit/how-rodent-proof-compost-bin/)

**For more information on types of composting, check out our website:**

[www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-services/waste-minimisation/compost](http://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/our-services/waste-minimisation/compost)

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**A GUIDE TO COMPOSTING**

*is nature's way of recycling*





**Nitrogen Green Layer:**

Kitchen Scraps

**Carbon Brown Layer:**

Dried leaves

**Nitrogen Green Layer:**

Fresh Leaves

**Carbon Brown Layer:**

Dry Sawdust

**Nitrogen Green Layer:**

Kitchen Scraps

**Base Layer:**

Sticks + Twigs approx 200mm deep

## IT IS LIKE MAKING A LASAGNE, LAYERING THE CARBON AND NITROGEN.

There are many things that affect how quickly compost will form. As the pile composts you can keep adding alternating layers of carbon and nitrogen. If you can still see some vegetable scraps, leave it to compost a bit longer. It is ready to use in the garden when it has turned into to a dark crumbly brew that smells earthy. If you smell rotten eggs, or the mix becomes slimy, add more carbon to this part of the compost. A healthy compost is full of natural soil life. Worms, centipedes and other insects are normal and helpful.

### **WATCH YOUR GARDEN FLOURISH, KNOWING THAT NATURE'S RECYCLING SYSTEM IS HARD AT WORK!**

Start with a 10-15cm thick carbon layer of course twiggy materials at the bottom of the bin so it can drain, and air can come in. Add a nitrogen layer and then a carbon layer and continue following this pattern. The layers allow air to circulate. Add water to each layer so it is damp to touch. When you are near the top of your bin finish with a layer of carbon, cover it with a dry sawdust, an old sack or carpet and leave it to compost!

**IT IMPROVES THE CONDITION OF GARDEN SOIL, SAVES YOU MONEY AND KEEPS ORGANIC WASTE OUT OF LANDFILLS, ELIMINATING METHANE GAS PRODUCTION.**