

YOUR GUIDE TO A HEALTHY BACKYARD COMPOST

✓ What Goes in a Compost Bin?



Garden Waste

- Leaves
- Grass trimmings
- Sticks and twigs
- Weeds that haven't gone to seed
- Houseplant trimmings
- Dead flowers
- Pinecones
- Pine needles or straw
- Fallen bird's nest



Food Waste

- Fruit and vegetables, including peels, rind, pits and corn cobs
- Chilli, onions, garlic and citrus*
- Tea bags (if they're not made of plastic, always check the label)
- Coffee grounds
- Eggshells
- Nutshells
- Rice
- Pasta
- Bread
- Herbs and spices



Other Organic Material

- Hair, nails and pet fur
- Pet bedding (i.e. for hamsters and rabbits)
- Unlined paper with minimal printing
- Cardboard (broken into small pieces)
- Egg cartons (remove the label)
- Toilet paper rolls
- Paper towels
- Corks
- Wooden toothpicks
- Wood chips and fireplace ashes
- Certified home compostable packaging, like brown paper lunch bags, coffee cups, bowls and cutlery (always look for the correct home compostable certification)

✗ What Doesn't Go in a Compost Bin?

- Fossil-based plastic products
- String
- Aluminium foil
- Dryer and washing machine lint and dust from the vacuum cleaner (this might contain micro-plastics and harmful chemicals)
- Waxed or lined paper and cardboard
- Large twigs and branches
- Pet droppings (especially dogs and cats)
- Cooking fat and oil
- Charcoal ash (BBQ briquettes are often infused with chemicals)
- Dairy, meat and animal products**

Tips

*Chilli, onions, garlic and citrus are suitable for a backyard compost bin, although it's recommended not to add too much if you have a worm farm – the acidity can negatively impact your worms!

**Animal and meat products can be composted, but it's not always recommended or you should limit the amount you compost as it may attract pests.

A healthy compost will balance 'greens' (nitrogen-rich materials like fruit, vegetables and grass clippings) with 'browns' (carbon-rich materials like leaves, twigs, shredded paper and certified home compostable packaging). Aim for one part greens to two parts browns.

Understanding Home Compostable Certification Logo

Compostable packaging can only go in your home compost bin if it's Certified Home Compostable under the Australasian Bioplastic Association (ABA). ABA is the only authority that can issue this certification in Australia and New Zealand. Look for the below logo, certification type and the company's specific licence number. If a product has this logo, it means it can be thrown into your backyard compost along with food scraps, grass clippings, leaves and other organic matter.



BioPak is a certified B Corp and donates 5% of profits to positive change

BioPak
It doesn't cost the earth

Certified
B
Corporation