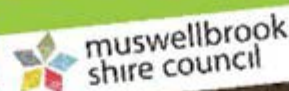




RETHINK YOUR WASTE

Start a Compost Bin

today!



WHY HAVE A COMPOST BIN?

- Reduce food waste to landfill - About 40% of household waste is food waste.
- Teach kids how to take responsibility for things – simple way to give kids some responsibility.
- Creates a free but nutritious plant food and improves water retention - compost is a great soil improver.
- Reduce harmful methane gas – a greenhouse gas.



HOW TO HAVE A COMPOST BIN?

STEP 1 – GETTING STARTED

Location - Your compost bin should be close to a water source, protected from the wind and have a good drainage system so that the bottom of the bin doesn't become water logged.

Bin type - There are many different types to suit your situation. Consider the amount you will compost, how you will collect the finished product and your budget. The size of your compost bin should be between 1 to 1.5 sq m.

STEP 2 – WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR BIN

Mix one part green materials to two parts brown materials.

GREEN

Vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds/filters, tea leaves/bags (ensure doesn't contain plastic), garden waste, fresh weeds without seeds, fresh grass clippings

BROWN

Dry leaves, dry hay, sawdust, woodchips, dried grass clippings, dried weeds without seeds, shredded paper napkins, tissue paper, wood ash

DO NOT COMPOST – Meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, oily foods, bones, plants infected with disease, plastic/petroleum products, metals, synthetic materials, carnivore's (dog or cat) poo.

STEP 3 – THE PROCESS

- Start your composting with a large layer of brown material as the base.
- Then begin to alternate your layers between green and brown.
- The smaller the waste is, the easier and faster it will break down.
- Always cover your green layer with a brown layer immediately to avoid odours.
- Keep compost moist, but not wet.
- Aerate your compost pile as often as possible. Use an aerator or pitchfork or if you have a tumbler, spin it.

Please contact Muswellbrook Shire Council for further information

p. (02) 6549 3700

f. (02) 6549 3701

e. council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

w. muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 122 Muswellbrook 2333



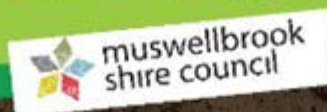
muswellbrook shire council



RETHINK YOUR WASTE

Start a Compost Bin

today!



Mix One Part **Green** Materials to Two Parts **Brown** Materials

Material	Carbon/ Nitrogen	Information
Wood chips / pellet	Carbon	High carbon levels; use sparingly
Wood ash	Carbon	Only use ash from clean materials; sprinkle lightly
Tea leaves	Nitrogen	Loose or in bags (ensure no plastic)
Table Scraps	Nitrogen	Add with dry carbon items
Straw or hay	Carbon	Straw is best; hay (with seeds) is less ideal
Shrub prunings	Carbon	Woody prunings are slow to break down
Shredded paper	Carbon	Avoid using glossy paper and coloured inks
Seaweed and kelp	Nitrogen	Apply in thin layers; good source for trace minerals
Sawdust pellets	Carbon	High carbon levels; add in layers to avoid clumping
Pine needles	Carbon	Acidic; use in moderate amounts
Newspaper	Carbon	Avoid using glossy paper and coloured inks
Dead leaves	Carbon	Leaves break down faster when shredded
Lawn & garden weeds	Nitrogen	Only use weeds which have not gone to seed
Green comfrey leaves	Nitrogen	Excellent compost 'activator'
Grass clippings	Nitrogen	Add in thin layers so they don't mat into clumps
Fruit and vegetable scraps	Nitrogen	Add with dry carbon items
Flowers, cuttings	Nitrogen	Chop up any long woody stems
Eggshells	Neutral	Best when crushed
Dryer lint	Carbon	Best if from natural fibres
Corn cobs, stalks	Carbon	Slow to decompose; best if chopped up
Coffee grounds	Nitrogen	Filters may also be included
Chicken manure	Nitrogen	Excellent compost 'activator'
Cardboard	Carbon	Shred material to avoid matting

Please contact Muswellbrook Shire Council for further information

p. (02) 6549 3700 f. (02) 6549 3701 e. council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au w. muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 122 Muswellbrook 2333



muswellbrook shire council