

# How to Make Your Own Compost



The  
Strumpet  
and  
Trollop Way!

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## Using a Composting Toilet

So you've decided to use a composting toilet but you're a little overwhelmed with the idea of recycling waste to make your own compost?? Well hopefully our fab little guide will help answer your questions and get you on your way to saving water and helping create a better environment for us all.

In today's world it's more important than ever to be environmental conscious and be aware of, and practice where possible, sustainable living and the composting toilet is a great way to help you do this. At the end of the day (and at the beginning 🤮) we all need to use the loo no matter who or where we are! In the UK alone we flush an estimated 2 billion litres of water every day, so you can see that this is a potential national and global issue.

## Part 1: The Magic Within the Toilet

Ok, so step one is finding the best toilet for you and your situation. Here at Strumpet and Trollop we have different sizes and options to accommodate anyone's space or preferences. We even offer a simple components kit, if you're particularly handy and want to knock up your own box, that provides everything you need for the internal of your construct to set you up for your composting toilet. If the



self assembly route is not for you though, we have ready built and painted/stained options for you too! We even do custom jobs, how fab is that?! We also specialise in glitter and glamour offering a unique composting toilet product that will leave your visitors impressed and praising your lovely throne!

Once you've got your dream composting toilet set up, here comes the biggest lifestyle change for new compost toilet user... physically using it! If you're new to the game this can take some getting used to, especially for the fellas! Rule number one, everyone has to sit down when using the toilet even if it's just for a tinkle. The separator you sit over works by sending liquids one way and solids the other, directing each to their own containers, and is the first and main step to eliminating odour. Here at Strumpet and Trollop we believe the best 'cover' materials to use are wooden cat litter pellets and then small pet bedding or sawdust after each (solid) use.



Start by putting a compostable bag in your bucket, you don't have to use one, you can just pour the contents straight from the solids tank into your secondary composting container (which is the place where the real magic will happen), but using bags just keeps it all cleaner and means it's easier to lift it out when full. Then double bag it, with another compostable bag, and transport it to your secondary container.







At the bottom of the tank or compostable bag put an inch of the wooden cat litter pellets, this acts as a biological sponge and will soak up extra moisture, and any urine that may get in there.

Then after every 'deposit', throw on a handful of the pet bedding or sawdust. It's best if you put dirty loo paper in a separate little bin lined with a paper bag to then bin or burn afterwards.



OK, so you've got that bit down and you're sawdusting deposits and burning loo roll like an old pro. Now comes the potentially mind-boggling bit, the process that actually turns your waste into your very own compost! This is of course a massive benefit to using a composting toilet and after just a few short months you can find yourself with your very own, self made rich top-soil compost that you can use in a variety of different ways.



## Part 2: Using a Secondary Composter

Ideally you will have 2 composting bins, however depending on how many people will be using the toilet and how often will depend on the size needed, but try not to worry too much as you'll figure things out along the way. Composting is one of those things where you learn all most as much doing it as you do by reading or talking about it, but we'll help as much as we can for now.

The aim is to get a composter big enough so that when one is full you use the other one until that one is full, then the first will be ready to use. So you want bins that hold 6 months worth of your composting toilet contents and whatever else you are hoping to compost too. There will be a bit of potential trial and error here but if you don't try then you don't succeed! It may take a few tries to get it just right but a little bit bigger than what you think would be better than not big enough, or you might end up having to use a third composter. You can get extremely technical and precise with the process, using compost thermometers or moisture meters, but sometimes keeping things simple is the best option, especially on a smaller household use scale. Moisture is important in your compost piles but visually you can judge if it needs any more adding, if you are including food waste though this will probably be unnecessary, unless there is a particularly hot heatwave or you live in a much hotter climate, as there will be a lot of moisture already in the food waste. Basically if it looks slightly moist but not wet you've got it bang on, you can do this by leaving the pile uncovered to allow rainwater in, by physically adding water, or you can even add your collected urine to keep the pile at a good moisture level.



## **Here are a few DO's and DON'T for using your 'Humanure' compost!**

DO- Start each compost pile with a big heap of hay or other course material, around 1 foot, to act as a bit of a biological sponge. This will help keep 'healthy' levels of moisture in your pile. Start as you mean to go on! Think of it as a giant version of your composting toilets solids tank.

DO- Always keep a supply of clean, organic cover material handy by your composting toilet at all times, ideally pet bedding or sawdust, to cover each 'solids deposit' as you go.

DO – Keep another supply of cover material by the compost bins for covering the compost pile itself. Coarser materials like hay, straw, weeds, leaves, and grass clippings is perfect. They prevent odour and help trap oxygen in the pile, very important when composting. It also makes sure the pile doesn't 'drown' in liquid.

DO – Deposit 'humanure' into a depression in the top centre of the compost pile, not around edges, and rake the edges back over the fresh deposit afterwards. This help to add oxygen to the pile and keeps the fresher 'humanure' in the warmer centre of the pile.

DO – Add a mix of organic materials to the humanure compost pile, including all food scraps.

DO – Make sure you have a mix of Carbon and Nitrogen, this is not as technical as it may sound. 'Humanure' is naturally very high in nitrogen, so you're covered there, and just make sure a bunch of carbon to the pile too. This is where your hay or dried leaved etc comes in, and don't forget the sawdust you've already added whilst using the composting toilet



itself counts too. Try not to overthink this though, it's not an exact science and you will find your own ways of doing things.

DO – Spread the ready compost on your lawn and around your non-edible plants. This will get your lawn looking green and full in no time, and will add nutrients to the soil and help everything grow.

DO – A slight exception to the previous rule is fruit trees. You can safely use the compost around the base and surrounding soil of these trees and it won't effect the fruit.

DON'T – Turn your composting pile, adding the courser cover materials to the pile as you add new deposits provides enough oxygen, plus you don't want to be releasing horrible bacterias etc into the surrounding areas. It's best to mess with the pile as little as you can once a deposit has been put on.

DON'T – Add worms (vermicomposting) to the bin, they don't help with the break down, but if you can it's an idea to remove the base of the composting bin and sit it straight on top of earth, then worms can get in the natural way from the bottom and only really to the already composted bit.

DON'T – Use the compost before it has fully aged. This takes approximately 6 months but you can tell because it should look, feel and smell like rich, dark earth. It should be dark brown and crumbly.

DON'T – Use lime or wood ashes on the compost pile. Put these things directly on the soil.

DON'T – Deposit anything smelly on a compost pile without covering it with a clean cover material.

DON'T – Allow dogs or other animals to disturb



your compost pile. If you have problems with animals, install wire mesh or other suitable barriers around your compost.

DON'T – Worry if your pile freezes in the winter, the composting will just restart after it thaws.

DON'T – Use your compost on Herbs, Vegetables, edible plants or flowers and those that you want to use the seeds from e.g. chia.

## Part 3: Time and Patience! Good Luck!

So with regards to covering the basics (and maybe a little more) about making your own compost that's about it, but if you need any more help or information with anything please see our website for Videos and FAQs, see our 'How to Make Your Own Compost' Leaflet, or just give us a call or drop us an email. We love to help and have a good old natter!!

Love Cat & Maria

01756798818

[cat@strumpetandtrollop.com](mailto:cat@strumpetandtrollop.com)/[maria@strumpetandtrollop.com](mailto:maria@strumpetandtrollop.com)

[www.strumpetandtrollop.com](http://www.strumpetandtrollop.com)

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