

# Composting Factsheet

Depending on the space you have to build a compost heap, you can either use a compost bin or build one or more composting bays for different stages of composting.

Whatever you choose, the set up is pretty much the same.

1. Your composting bin or bay should be sitting on soil, to attract microbial life, worms and other composting animals into your heap.
2. The first layer should be made of sticks or mulch to allow for aeration.
3. Adding brown and green layers in a 2 to 1 ratio will keep a nice balance between high nitrogen (green) and low nitrogen (brown) layers.
4. Animal manure and worm castings are a great additive to your compost. Other 'activating' ingredients are blood & bone, lime and rock minerals.
5. Keep your compost moist but not wet and cover with straw, cardboard or a piece of old carpet to keep it warm and moist.

## WHAT TO AVOID

- Meat
- Cat and dog droppings
- Large amounts of citrus peel or onion
- Bleaches or glossy office paper
- Dairy products
- Diseased plants

Green materials include fruit and vegetable scraps, used tea, coffee grounds, crushed eggshells, grass clippings, green plant cuttings, old flowers and many weeds.

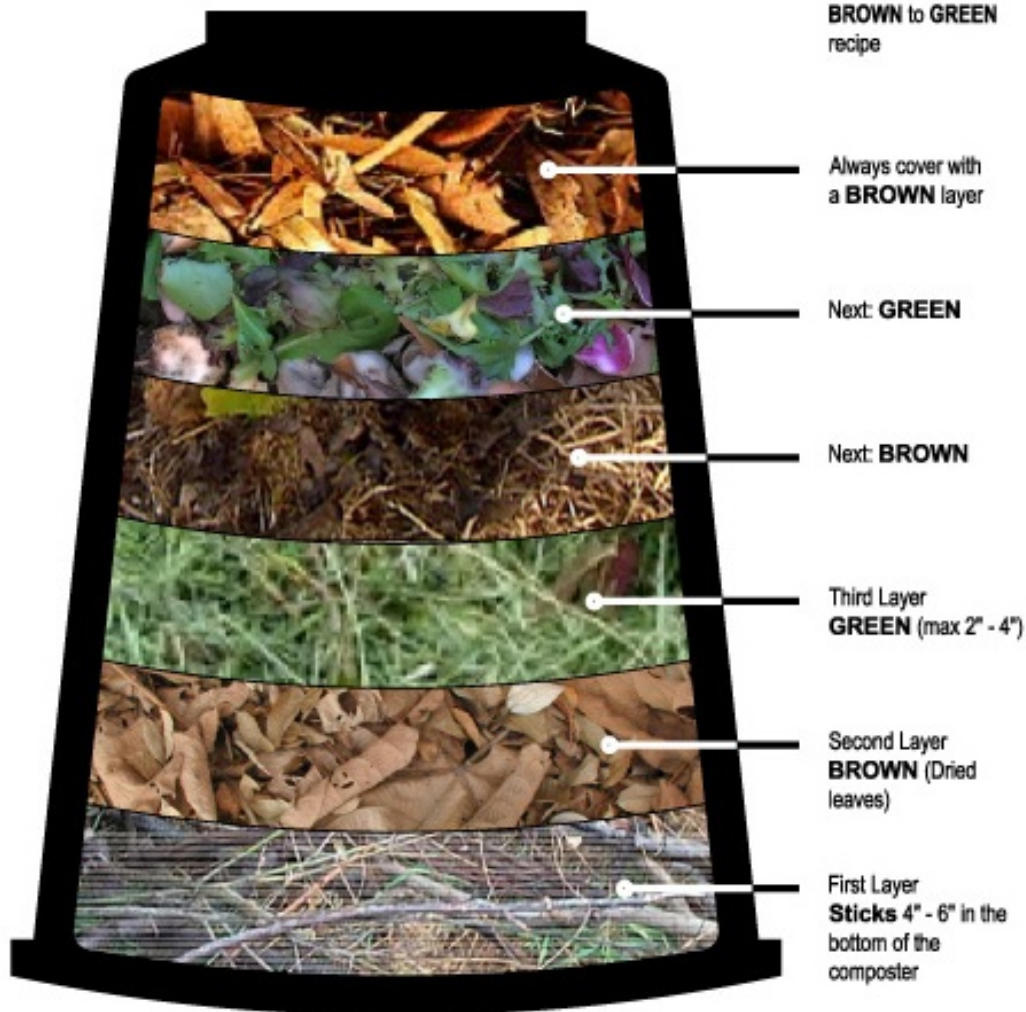
## WHAT CAN YOU ADD TO YOUR COMPOST?

- Fruit and veggie scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Herbs
- Autumn leaves
- Egg shells - crushed
- Pizza containers
- Egg cartons
- Aged animal manure
- Hair clippings
- Onions
- Citrus peel
- Grass clippings (thin layers 3-4cm)
- Chopped prunings
- Weeds without seeds or bulbs
- Shredded newspaper

Brown materials are things like straw, paper and cardboard, dry leaves, woody prunings and sawdust (but not from treated wood).

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## A COMPOST RECIPE TO FEED YOUR SOIL.



**KEEP MOIST:** As wet as a wrung out sponge.

**AERATE:** Air helps to speed up decomposition. Aeration should be done throughout the entire composting process.

**KEEP COVERED:** Use a compost lid, cardboard or canvas over top of your pile.