

Home Composting – give it a try!

If you've never considered Home Composting, it could be just the time to give it a try. Home composting can help you save money and space in your rubbish bin. The compost is great for your garden, and you'll be doing your bit for the environment by diverting your organic waste from landfill.

Here's a quick guide to home composting to get you started.

Getting a Bin

You can either make your own compost bin from old pallets or get one from the Cheshire Waste Partnership from as little as £8 – delivered directly to your door!. Visit www.recycleforcheshire.org.uk for details or **ring the order line on 0845 077 0757**

Placing the Bin

The best place to put your bin is on flat soil that has good drainage, preferably in a sunny spot.

What to put in your compost bin

To make good compost there needs to be a balance of both “green” material and “brown” material. “Greens” are quick to rot such as grass cuttings, tea bags, fruit waste and vegetable peelings. “Browns” are slow to rot and include cardboard, card egg boxes, fallen leaves and scrunched up paper. The “greens” and “browns” need to be added in equal amounts to ensure the compost heap doesn't get too wet or too dry. You may need to give your compost a stir occasionally – the process needs air to turn that waste into compost.

What to keep out

There are things that you should never put into your bin such as cooked vegetables, dairy products, meat or dog/cat waste. These materials could attract pests into the garden or make the compost bin smelly. Certain weeds like dandelions and thistles should also be kept out of your home compost bin so the weeds are not spread when you use your finished compost.

Using the finished compost

Your home compost will be ready after about 6-9 months. You can accelerate the process by regularly turning and mixing your compost bin. When ready to use, the finished compost should be dark and crumbly .

Finished compost can be used all around your garden. It can be used on flowerbeds, to enrich new borders, as mulch, around trees, in patio containers, for healthier herbs and vegetables and to feed your lawn. Its versatile stuff!

For more information about home composting visit
www.recycleforcheshire.org.uk

