

Recycling organics



Composting food and garden waste

Did you know that 55% of what goes to landfill is organic waste from our kitchens and gardens?

Composting is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a nutrient-rich fertiliser or mulch for your garden. It's easy to make and use.

Everybody can compost no matter how limited your outdoor space might be. Compost bins are perfect for even the smallest of backyards, while worm farms fit perfectly on patios or in garages.

Worm farms can recycle:

- ✓ fruit scraps (except for citrus such as oranges, mandarins, lemons and limes)
- ✓ vegetable scraps (except for onions, leeks, garlic and chillies)
- ✓ tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ egg shells.

Establishing a worm farm is a great family activity that your children will love. Get the kids involved by playing Worm World (available free for iPads). See page 13 for details.





Do you need some help starting out?

Council runs free composting workshops all over the city that teach residents how to compost using a bin or worm farm. For more information, call Council on **(07) 3403 8888** or visit Council's website, **www.brisbane.qld.gov.au**

Compost bins can recycle:

- ✓ fruit and vegetable scraps (even onions and citrus)
- ✓ tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ egg shells
- ✓ grass clippings and straw
- ✓ other garden waste, including prunings and shrubs
- ✓ manure from herbivores e.g. cows, horses and sheep (no cat or dog manure)
- ✓ pet hair
- ✓ vacuum cleaner contents
- ✓ wood ash and untreated sawdust.



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Biodegradable products

Biodegradable products, including bamboo plates, bamboo cutlery and corn starch bags, cannot be put in your recycling bin at home. Reuse these biodegradable products when you can and check with the product supplier about the best disposal methods.

Some biodegradable products are compostable, including lawn clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps, but these should not be placed in your recycling bin.

Remember that garden trimmings and lawn clippings can go in the green waste bin (see page 32-33), composted at home (see pages 28-29) or taken to Council's resource recovery centres for mulching (see pages 24-25).

Fruit and vegetable scraps can be composted using a worm farm or compost bin at home (see page 28-29).



Fruit and vegetable scraps



Bamboo

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Green waste recycling bins

Green waste recycling bins are an easy and affordable way to recycle your garden waste.

Green waste recycling bins are collected fortnightly from your home and the green waste is taken to a green waste recycling facility where it is processed into compost and mulch.

Recycling your lawn clippings, palm fronds, prunings and leaves saves valuable organic resources from going to landfill while helping to create a more sustainable, green and clean city.

If you have large volumes of green waste that won't fit in a 240 litre wheelie bin, consider using one of Brisbane's local businesses that operate a garden bag collection service.

Visit **www.gardenbaggroupp.com.au** for more information.



A green waste bin is available for a one-off establishment fee of \$30, and a small quarterly fee payable on your rates notice.