

WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT COMPOST

- **Anything that was once living will compost**, but some items are best avoided. Meat, dairy and cooked food can attract vermin and should not be home-composted.
- **For best results, use a mixture of types of ingredient.** The right balance is something learnt by experience, but a rough guide is to use equal amounts by volume of greens and browns (see below).
- **Some things, like grass mowings and soft young weeds, rot quickly.** They work as 'activators', getting the composting started, but on their own will decay to a smelly mess.
- **Older and tougher plant material is slower to rot but gives body to the finished compost** - and usually makes up the bulk of a compost heap. Woody items decay very slowly; they are best chopped or shredded first, where appropriate.

'Greens'

- Urine (diluted with water 20:1)
- Comfrey leaves/Grass clippings/Nettles
- Raw vegetable peelings from your kitchen
- Tea bags and leaves, coffee grounds
- Young green weed growth ❖ avoid weeds with seeds
- Soft green pruning's
- Animal manure from herbivores eg cows and horses /Poultry manure and bedding

'Browns' - slow to rot

- Cardboard eg. cereal packets and egg boxes
- Waste paper and junk mail, including shredded waste
- Cardboard tubes
- Glossy magazines/Newspapers ❖ although it is better for the environment to pass them on to your local doctors or dentists' surgery or send them for recycling
- Bedding from vegetarian pets eg rabbits, guinea pigs ❖ hay, straw, wood shavings
- Tough hedge clippings
- Woody pruning's
- Old bedding plants
- Wood shavings/saw dust
- Fallen leaves can be composted but the best use of them is to make leaf mould

Other compostable items

- Hair, nail clippings
- Egg shells (crushed)

Do NOT compost

- Meat
- Fish
- Cooked food
- Coal & coke ash
- Cat litter
- Dog faeces
- Disposable nappies

LET'S WORK TOGETHER AND MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE!