



Making a Compost Pile

Composting is a great way to learn about nutrient lifecycles. It is great for the environment and great for your garden. There are two main ways to compost:

Use a composting bin: these are available from your garden centre or hardware store.

You can make a compost cage: Using chicken wire and some stakes

Make a Compost Cage:

You will need 4 stakes about 70cm long that will be hammered into the ground so about 40-50cms is left above the ground. Hammer them in the ground to form a square about 1 metre apart.

You will also need some chicken wire about 5 metres long by 50cm wide. Wrap this around the outside of your stakes to form a wall to hold all the compost in. Use some wire ties to hold each end of the chicken wire in place. Make sure any exposed wire ends are rolled up or bent end over end to remove any pointy edges.

The measurements don't need to be exactly as above and you can make compost cages any shape you like. It is so easy that if you have the space, you can make 2 or 3 compost cages so that when one of them is full and decomposing you can aerate it until it is composted and fill your other cage with fresh organic material.

What should you put in your Compost Pile:

- Fruit and Vegetable scraps (try not to put citrus in as this increases the acid level of the compost)
- Egg Shells and other Food Scraps
- Grass Clippings from the Lawn Mower
- Small Garden Cuttings

What you should NOT put in your Compost Pile:

- Pet Dropping
- Meat
- Dairy Products
- Weeds
- Treated Timbers

Make sure you keep your compost pile aerated and moist; visit our [composting](#) page in the science section for more information on how your compost pile works.