

# Building a composter

A simple step by step guide to constructing your own home composter for garden waste

Simply follow these steps to produce a large home composter in your own garden



**Step 1:** Clear and level the area where you are going to put the compost bin.



**Step 2:** Stand an old pallet on its long edge to form the back edge of the composter. Push a stake through the two layers of the pallet at either end.



**Step 3:** Drive the pallets in firmly to a depth of 20cm to 30cm. Position two more pallets at right angles to the first to make the sides, butting the corners tightly together to stop compost spilling through the gaps. Fix in place with stakes in each corner.



**Step 4:** Trim off the tops of the stakes with a saw. Wire the pallets together at each corner to keep the structure stable.



**Step 5:** To make a gate-type opening, wire the final pallet to allow access to the compost.



**Step 6:** Start filling your compost bin with garden waste, see reverse for more information on making compost.



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# Compost bin tips

## Useful information on making compost

### FIND THE RIGHT SITE

Ideally site your compost bin in a reasonably sunny site on bare soil.

### FILL IT UP

The secret to successful compost is getting the balance right between wet and dry materials from the garden, aim for a 50/50 mix of greens and browns. Greens include young wet and sappy waste for example grass cuttings, spent bedding plants, tea bags and coffee grounds. Browns are old, dry, more fibrous waste for example twigs, branches, cardboard and sawdust.

**Do not** compost meat, dairy products, nappies, dog waste or cat litter, diseased plants, perennial weeds or weeds with seed heads or cooked vegetables.

### WAIT A WHILE

It takes between nine and twelve months for your compost to become ready for use, so now all you need to do is wait and let nature do the work. Keep on adding greens and browns to top up your compost as well as letting air get to the mix by turning it occasionally.

### READY FOR USE

Once your compost has turned into a crumbly, dark material, resembling thick, moist soil and gives off an earthy, fresh aroma, you know it's ready to use.

### USE IT

Don't worry if your compost looks a little lumpy with twigs and bits of eggshell – this is perfectly normal. Use it to enrich borders and vegetable patches, plant up patio containers or feed the lawn.



For more information visit [www.target45plus.org.uk](http://www.target45plus.org.uk)



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