

The basics

There are a variety of options for composting. Popular options you could consider are: compost bin, bokashi bin or worm farm. You can buy these from hardware stores or make your own.



Greens and browns

Each compost method will require a different composition of greens and browns. These are:



Why compost



Almost 50% of household rubbish to landfill is organic waste – this is food waste, lawn clippings and garden waste.

When you put organic waste into your rubbish bag or bin it ends up in the landfill. Organic waste in the landfill does not compost. It undergoes anaerobic decomposition (because of the lack of oxygen) and generates methane. The methane needs to be captured and specially treated.

Be part of the solution – composting:

- ✓ Improves soil fertility and texture, and retains moisture and nutrients.
- ✓ It is inexpensive and easy to do.
- ✓ Compost rich soil grows healthier, more productive plants.
- ✓ It's a better use of resources than ending up in the landfill.

We Can Worm farm



Guide to Worm Farming
for the Taranaki region



Choose your site

Find a sheltered place, not in direct sun for the worm farm. A carport is ideal.



If your worm farm does not have legs, use bricks or pavers to lift the worm farm to make space for a container under the tap.

Set up the first layer

Add newspaper bedding, worms (you can buy special worms online, or ask a friend to share), and a small amount of food. Cover with damp carpet, sacking or newspaper, then the lid.



Layers

Keep adding browns and greens until each layer is full. Add food scraps regularly.



When layer 1 is full, replace the cover with the vented lid and add layer 2.

Harvest the bottom layer when the top layer is 2/3 full – and the contents look like dark fine compost.

Hint: Keep pieces of food small for your worms – about the size of a golf ball is best.

Harvest

The liquid

Liquid from the worm farm drains into the bottom bucket. Empty this regularly. Dilute one part of 'worm tea' to 10 parts water. Use on your garden as a liquid fertiliser around the base of your plants.



The castings

Empty the bottom layer of your worm farm first, when the contents look like a dark fine compost. Spread this around your garden bed. You can also add 1 part castings to 10 parts water and use as a liquid fertiliser around the base of your plants.



What to feed worms



Avoid

- ✗ Onions and garlic
- ✗ Citrus
- ✗ Meat and bones
- ✗ Cooked food