

## How to make compost



Keen to make compost at home? Look no further than this simple recipe. Livingstone, from Soil for Life ([www.soilforlife.co.za](http://www.soilforlife.co.za)) uses the analogy of baking a cake for building a 'hot' compost heap: simply gather the correct ingredients, add them in the correct quantities, stir every couple of weeks, bake and serve (download printable compost recipe).

### Ingredients:

Dry/brown organic material - dry grass; leaves or shredded cardboard and newspaper

Wet/green organic material - wet grass; kitchen scraps; green garden trimmings

Water

Air

Wood ash - to combat acidity in the soil (from your fireplace, but not charcoal)

### Method:

1. Choose a spot for your compost heap, 1m wide and up to 3m long.
2. Layer the dry/brown and the wet/green material giving a light watering and a small sprinkling of wood ash between the layers.
3. Cover with a blanket or hesian sack to keep in the moisture. The compost should heat up to about 60 degrees C due to the biodegrading process and this will kill any seeds helping your compost to not produce weeds.
4. Turn the heap every 2 weeks to add air which will help the process.
5. Build the heap until 1m high.
6. Once all material is broken down, sieve, bag and use as required in the garden.