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### **START HOME COMPOSTING TODAY** At least 30% of your household bin could be composted!

A lot of people think that garden waste is the only thing that you can put into your compost bin. But there are actually loads more everyday waste items from your home and garden that you can add to enrich your compost. Things you CAN add to your compost bin include:



& napkins (unless they have fats. oils or disease)

• Wool

Bedding from

vegetarian pets

Offer limited to 3 bins per household and to West Sussex residents only. Expect delivery within 28 days. If you wish to cancel your order before the bin is delivered or if the bin has beer delivered and you wish to return it, please phone the customer care line on 0800 107 3798 within 7 working days. Offer is subject to availability and closes December 2007, though stocks of some bins are limited and may run out sooner than offer end. WRAP works in partnership to encourage and enable businesses and consumers to be more efficient in their use of materials and recycle more things more often. This helps to minimise landfill, reduce carbon emissions and improve our environment. \*One kitchen caddy per hou n purchase, whilst stocks last. Actual colour may vary. When you have finished with this leaflet please recycle it. Printed on 100% recycled pape



The Recycle Now Home Composting Campaign is a government funded scheme to encourage people to reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill.

So how is it possible to sell bins at such low prices? Buying in large volumes direct from manufacturers lets Recycle Now offer the bins for less. In addition to this,





14535-05 HCA Leaflet West Sussex1 1



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	Date: 13.12.0	6 Size: 210 x 396 (Fold to A5)	Designer	Art Director	Creative Director	Copywriter	Production	Account Team	Client	PRINT READY	1	5
ray leino	Colours:	4									2	6
	No of Pages:	2 (6)									3	7
973 1173	Job No:	14535-05									4	8

## BARGAIN COMPOST BINS

КОМ

(250ltr)



- H105cm x 54cm x 54cm
- 4 sided with hinged lid
- Marbled green (variable)
- Made from 100% recycled material



### **ORDER YOUR BIN ONLINE AT** WWW.RECYCLENOW.COM/COMPOST OR CALL 0845 077 0757 QUOTING REFERENCE HCA1 YOU CAN NOW ORDER YOUR ACCESSORIES ONLINE TOO!

FREE kitchen caddy when you buy a bin\*



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# **GETTING THE RIGHT MIX**

### We filled three compost bins with three different mixtures to show you how to make the best compost

TOO GREEN!

This is a classic mistake made by many first time composters. They get their brand new compost bin and just use it to get rid of their grass cuttings, fruit and vegetable peelings. These are great things to put in a bin, but on their own you will end up with a sludgy, smelly mess.



- **1** First day only grass cuttings and peelings visible.
- **2** After a couple of weeks lots of fruit flies, looks like a green lump, smells rotten and the bin feels warm at this stage.



**3** After a month – will just be a moist, lumpy mess and will have lost that vital heat, that is needed for the composting process due to the lack of air.



Can I do anything about it? A bit of hard work is the remedy for sludge, use a fork to empty the bin and break up any solid clumps. Then refill the bin adding plenty of brown material and some fresh greens as you go. Be patient, as it will take a couple of months to look like it should do.



Autumn is a typical time of year for this to occur. Because of the large number of leaves falling from the trees and a flurry of plant pruning, bins get filled with too many leaves. Leafmould usually takes two years before it is ready to use. You don't necessarily need nitrogen to kick start the process but it helps. Autumn leaves just don't produce enough nitrogen to activate the heat production.



- 1 First day a heap of leaves. branches, straw and paper, very dry looking
- **2** After a couple of weeks looks much the same. no smell and just a few woodlice and ants.
- **3** After a month still no change!

That's like my bin. what can I do? Leaves should be composted separately to make lovely leafmould. Thoroughly water the leaves and place in black plastic sacks, punctured with a fork to allow air to circulate

It should take about two years for leafmould to be produced. This rich leafmould can be used as a weed suppressing and moisture retaining mulch or a soil improver.

If your bin does have more leaves in it than it should do, you can add nettles soaked in cold water which also make a great activator for a dry compost bin.



The 'green' items contain bacteria that generates the initial heat that is required by the process. A healthy compost bin is a living ecosystem. By keeping a good mix of green and brown material you will provide the perfect conditions for a variety of mini-beasts, and can let them do all of the hard work.

1 First day – green and brown items visible; egg shells, vegetable peelings, scrunched up cardboard, grass cuttings,



fter a couple of weeks looking a bit moist, the level will keep dropping and air-pockets will be letting it breathe. • After a couple of months - small clumps of green material are still visible, brown items still showing but starting to decompose and looking quite damp, fruit flies and slugs and worms may also be present



**3** After six months – black and crumbly material, no smell, some woody brown material and egg shells still visible, some worms and bugs left but most creatures will have moved on to find fresher food



#### That wasn't too tricky, what should I do to keep it going?

Just keep on doing the same thing. Make sure you keep adding the right combination of green and browns and you'll have a continuous supply of nutritious compost for your garden. Don't forget to aerate your compost once in a while by using a fork or a broom handle.

Why do I need to compost my peelings when they break down in landfill anyway?



In reality organic waste that is sent to landfill is unable to decompose properly because, squashed under all the other waste, it doesn't have any access to air. So instead methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, is produced which contributes to global warming. When you compost your organic waste at home you are not only providing your garden with a limitless soil improver for plants and vegetables, but you are doing your bit to reduce global warming too!



