



Make Your Own Composter

What happens to a pile of old leaves outside when you add some time, maybe some worms, and a healthy splash of water? Rich soil perfect for growing vegetables!

Materials

- 1 empty two-litre bottle
- Sharp knife (Adult supervision essential)
- Nail
- Shredded newspaper
- Soil (not potting soil, use soil from outside)
- Compost materials (grass clippings, vegetable scraps)
- Small handful of dead leaves
- Flat dish to hold composter
- Spray bottle with water

Directions

- 1 Rinse the bottle and peel off the label.
 - 2 Cut off the top of the bottle as shown. Set the top aside.
 - 3 Use a nail to punch 8 to 10 small air and drainage holes along the sides and bottom of the bottle.
 - 4 Put the bottle on the tray. Put some soil, shredded newspaper and old leaves inside the composter.
- This is your compost starter.



5 Use the spray bottle to wet the compost starter.

6 You're ready to add to your compost! (Try grass clippings, vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, or eggshells, but do not add dairy or meat.)

7 Turn the bottle top upside down and place it in the open top of the bottle. It will act like a funnel for adding a little bit of water each day to keep the contents damp.



8 Place in a spot where sunlight can reach it. Cover the top of your compost with a kitchen towel when not in use.

9 Check the composter each day and describe what you observe. Every few days, stir the compost and make sure to keep the contents damp. As your compost breaks down, you can add more kitchen scraps or plant litter, as well as some more soil from outside to mix in. You might see fluffy mould growing – so keep your compost covered when you're not working with it.

10 Bonus: Take your rich, healthy soil, place it in a pot, add a seed and some water and grow your very own plant!

Further information:

US video about composting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRXNo-7Ieky8>

Information about composting: <http://www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk/composting.html>