

COMPOST MAKING STEPS

STEP 1 COLLECT MATERIALS FOR COMPOST

Carbon i.e. **Brown** Materials
(e.g. small sticks, dry grass or leaves, straw, shredded newspaper/cardboard)



CARBON / BROWN

Nitrogen i.e. **Green** Materials
(green grass-clippings or leaves, kitchen scraps (raw vegetable waste), fresh manure)



NITROGEN / GREEN

Activators (green comfrey and/or yarrow leaves, worm tea, old compost/manure)

Larger sticks/logs for base

Water - preferably rain/borehole water



STEP 2 PREPARE A SITE

Easily accessible, as you will need to tend to the heap regularly

Used pallets are great for a simple structure

2m x 2m x 1m is a good size (bigger is better)

Place larger sticks and logs directly on the ground to ensure airflow from the base of the heap and to prevent water logging



STEP 3 BUILD COMPOST HEAP

Layer brown and green materials in a ratio of 3:1 (75:25) **brown:green**

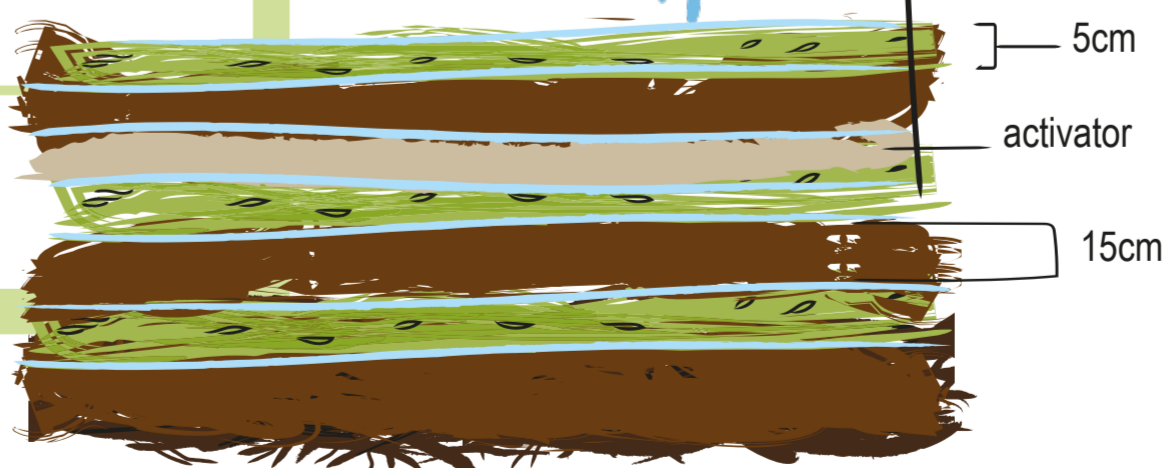


Create even layers approx 15cm thick for brown and 5cm green alternating brown and green as you go.

Water each layer as you build the heap

Add an activator every 2 layers

Continue building the layers until the heap is at least 1m high

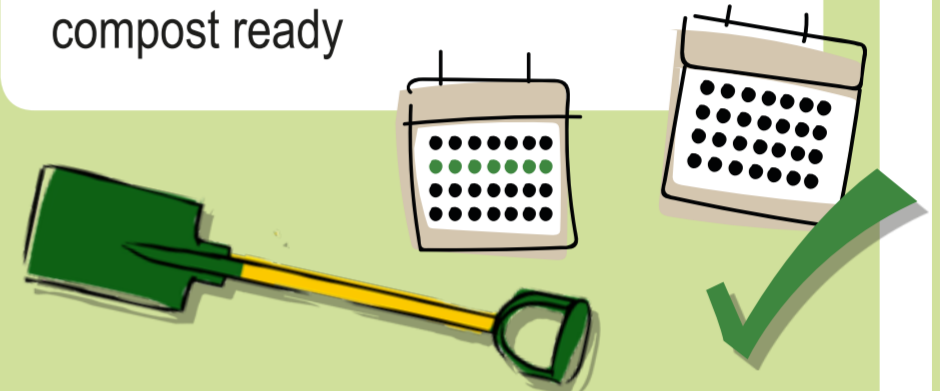


STEP 4 COVER AND ALLOW THE HEAP TO COMPOST

Cover entire heap with mulch

Aerate - turn compost every week

After 4 weeks you should have compost ready



STEP 5 SIFT OUT READY COMPOST

Use a sieve to sort all the compost that is ready from the materials that have not yet broken down

Set the compost that is ready one side (ready compost is dark brown to black)

Use the remaining materials (activator) in the next heap



STEP 6 REPEAT STEPS 1-6

NB! You can never ever have enough compost!
Never ending process



A WELL MADE COMPOST HEAP WILL NOT SMELL OR ATTRACT FLIES, IF IT DOES OR APPEARS WET AND SLIMY TURN MORE REGULARLY AND ADD EXTRA BROWN MATERIALS



African Climate Reality Project

www.climatereality.africa
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