

Composting

The way you dispose of your food and garden waste can have a massive impact on the environment and the planet. One way to reduce the amount of food going waste is to compost it at home! This is a great way to recycle your garden waste too!

Location, location, location!

One of the most important factors for starting a compost pile is its location. Choose an open, level area with good drainage. You do not want your compost to sit in standing water. An area with partial sun or shade is also an idea!

Size matters!

The recommended size for a compost pile is generally no smaller than 3 feet high and wide and no larger than 5 feet. Anything smaller may not heat up efficiently and anything larger may hold too much water and become difficult to turn. It is recommended to start your pile on bare ground rather than on asphalt or concrete.

What to compost?

The key materials for composting are nitrogen (which is our green materials) and carbon (which is our browns). When starting a compost pile, the recommended practice is to layer or alternate these greens and browns, the same way as you would for making lasagne.

Vegetable peelings, fruit waste, teabags, plant prunings and grass cuttings are all great, as well as crunched up paper and fallen leaves.

Watering

Your compost pile should be moist, but not soggy. Most of your water will come from rain, as well as the moisture in green materials, but you may need to water the pile yourself on occasion. If the pile gets too wet, you can turn it more frequently to dry it, or add more brown materials to soak up excess moisture.

Turning your compost

Once you turn the pile the first time, these materials will get mixed together and compost more efficiently. Keeping the compost pile turned on a frequent basis will help with aeration and speed up decomposition, resulting in a nutrient rich fertiliser for your garden enjoy.

Learn more on the Cheshire East website.

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/waste_and_recycling/reducing-household-waste/home-composting.aspx