



Put your green waste to good use.

### Useful ideas for a less wasteful and more beautiful garden.

Garden and kitchen waste is a valuable resource that is wasted if we bury it in a land fill, burn it, or send it down a waste disposal to the sewer. Instead we can return the nutrients back to our soils. Making your own compost can mean you don't need to use commercial fertilisers and pesticides as often or at all. Save money on rubbish disposal and grow your plants bigger, faster and stronger!

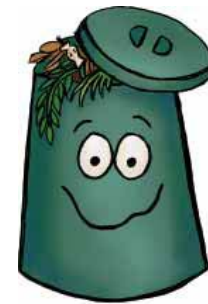
Call your local council for information on home composting, some Councils even offer free composting courses or subsidies when purchasing compost bins or worm farms.

Check out the Create your own Eden website for all the information you need on home composting and sustainable gardening. Download your 'how to' composting guide as well as your guide to smart gardening.

[www.createyourowneden.org.nz](http://www.createyourowneden.org.nz)

## Lets get Composting!

There are three home composting methods to try, these are:



### Traditional composting using a heap or bin

Using nature's recipe for recycling - easy steps:

- choose a site in a warm, shaded location with good drainage
- build your own bin or buy one
- layer food scraps, garden clippings, and paper to speed up the process
- keep compost slightly moist and mix it once a month
- when the compost is dark and crumbly it is ready to use



### Vermiculture or Worm Farming

If you don't have a garden try worm farming. You don't need much space, they are ideal for apartments, and small backyards. They can even be located inside, as they don't smell. Feed worms with vegetable and food scraps, tea bags, eggshells and small amounts of paper.



### Bokashi

This consists of a two-bucket system with one nested on top of the other. The top bucket has a tight fitting lid and holes in its base to drain to the lower bucket. In addition there is a bag of Compost-Zing made from wheat-bran and untreated sawdust mixed with molasses and water and Effective Micro-organisms. Food waste is added to the top bucket in layers with the Compost-Zing. You can make your own system as long as it is airtight.

### Smart gardening tips

Smart gardening uses techniques that are beneficial to the environment and will also save you time and money.

- Making and using compost in your garden
- Planting native plants or ground cover
- Using mulches and drought tolerant plant species
- Replacing lawn with low ground cover or grass-cycling
- Reusing rainwater and landscaping materials in the garden
- Avoiding the use of harmful pest and weed control materials
- Green purchasing for gardening requirements



The Create your own Eden Smart Gardening Guide will give you ideas for creating a beautiful, native garden that is easy to maintain for any size or type of section. You can use some of the techniques outlined here on your vegetable garden, fruit trees, exotic and ornamental gardens. The guide can be downloaded from the Create your own Eden website or requested from your local Council (if you live in the Auckland region).

For more information visit [www.createyourowneden.org.nz](http://www.createyourowneden.org.nz) and click on the 'contact us' link.