



rethink rubbish
small actions, big changes



**COMPOSTING
AT HOME**

COMPOSTING

Why should you compost?

- It saves money – you won't have to buy compost or fertilizers from the shops.
- It helps your garden to grow naturally - compost improves soil structure, feeds your plants and helps retain moisture.
- It reduces rubbish and helps the environment – about a third of the rubbish thrown away at home can be used to make compost.
- It's simple and easy.

What do you need to make compost ?

- A suitable container
- Ingredients
- Warmth and moisture
- Air

How does composting work ?

Composting works by using organisms, such as bacteria and worms, to decompose organic matter, like food and green garden rubbish.

How do I make compost ?

- Put your compost bin on bare earth and preferably where it will get some heat from the sun
- Begin with a layer of prunings, to help air circulate and to provide simple drainage, which helps the organisms break down the rubbish
- Fill the bin with a mixture of green garden trimmings and kitchen leftovers (from the list opposite)
- After 1-3 months turn the compost, by taking it out of the bin and putting it back in.

The compost will be ready in anything from a few months to a year. It should be crumbly and dark brown or black. Remove the compost from the bottom when it's ready. Either dig it into your garden, or use it as a mulch or potting compost.



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What can you compost?

If it will rot it will compost, but some ingredients are best avoided.

Good ingredients to get the compost started: grass cuttings, horse manure.

Ingredients that give the compost good structure: woody prunings, cardboard.

DO USE

ash • raw fruit and veg • crushed egg shells • flowers • tea bags/ coffee grounds • prunings • leaves • straw or hay

DO NOT USE

meat • fish • cooked food • cat or dog poo • nappies • glossy magazines • persistent weeds • diseased plants

Top Tips

- If your compost gets too dry remember to water it.
- Put some twiggy material at the bottom, to provide drainage
- Use two compost bins – one will decompose while you fill the second.

SPECIAL OFFER

We are offering all East Sussex residents the opportunity to try out home composters FREE OF CHARGE for a 60 day trial period.

To encourage you to keep your composter we are making them available to buy at a fraction of the usual price. Composting is for everyone - not just for gardeners. Just give it a try to see how easy it is!

The composters are available for home delivery at the following prices:

220 Litre Black Converter

Home Delivered price: £16.00
after 60 days (RRP £39.95)

330 Litre Black Converter

Home Delivered price: £19.95
after 60 days (RRP £49.95)

Made from 100% recycled plastic and guaranteed for 10 years, they don't need to be assembled and they are easy to use.

To order your 60 Day Free Trial Home Composter call now on:
0870 844 3027

COMPOSTING

Composting with Worms



You can compost even more of your kitchen leftovers by using a wormery. You can either purchase a ready made wormery or you could make your own.

If you buy a wormery (some suppliers are listed below) it will come with tiger worms, also known as brandling worms. They can eat all dead or decaying matter and so you can put in nearly all kitchen leftovers and garden rubbish (but not woody garden rubbish or grass cuttings).

Keep the worms well fed and they'll provide you with good quality compost and a liquid that you can siphon off from the bottom of the container and use as plant food.

Suppliers of Wormeries

Original Organics Ltd

Telephone (01884) 841515

Email: sales@originalorganics.co.uk

www.originalorganics.co.uk

Wiggly Wigglers

Telephone (01981) 500391

e-mail: wiggly@wigglywigglers.co.uk

www.wigglywigglers.co.uk

West Country Worms

Telephone (01803) 712738

e-mail: info@westcountryworms.co.uk

www.westcountryworms.co.uk

Lists of suppliers are not exhaustive or an endorsement of any particular product.



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Food Digesters (Green Cones)

Food digesters are specialised compost bins. They take all cooked and uncooked food, including meat, fish, bones, dairy products, vegetables and fruit. Food digesters produce very little compost, as most disappears into the ground, so making this a very 'low maintenance' option.



Suppliers of Food Digesters

Green Cone

P.O. Box 6788, Nottingham, NG2 4JE
Tel: 0800 7312572 (U.K. only)
e-mail: sales@greencone.com
www.green-cone.co.uk

Composting at Household Waste Recycling Sites

Any green garden rubbish that you can't compost at home can be taken to any of



the 12 Household Waste Recycling Sites (the 'tip') provided by East Sussex County Council. It's then taken to large sites and composted. Some of the compost produced is used by farmers to put the goodness back into their land, and some is used on landfill sites to help turn them back into fields.

For more information on our Household Waste Recycling Sites please contact the Rethink Rubbish Team on:



01273 482323



rethinkrubbish@eastsussexcc.gov.uk



Or check out our website:

www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk/environment/rubbishandrecycling

BOOK THE RETHINK RUBBISH BUS



Bus Dimensions

Length	8.25m (27ft)
Height	3.5m (11ft 6")
Width	min 2.5m (8ft 2") max 5m (16ft 5")

The Bus is available for open days and events. It's fun, it's free and it's fully staffed. Our specialist staff can also offer free talks and run workshops. The Bus is packed with ideas, games and special offers to help everyone to cut the amount of rubbish we throw away.

To book the Rethink Rubbish Bus or to find out more please contact us:



01273 482323



rethinkrubbish@eastsussexcc.gov.uk



Or check out our website:

www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk/environment/rubbishandrecycling

The Bus exhibition has been designed by Science Museum Solutions, with content by East Sussex County Council.

Printed on 100 per cent post consumer recycled paper.

