

Composting at Home



Compost is decomposed organic matter that can be used as a fertilizer. It is a great way to reduce food waste. Composting enhances the ability of plants to grow healthily, while reducing the volume of trash.

Easy way to compost:

1. Take a bucket-sized (15 liter) container having a tap with a proper air tight lid.
2. Put some jaggery at the bottom. Efficiency of organic compost can be increased up to 95-100% by using jaggery. It acts as a good



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promoter to increase the absorption of nutrients by plants.

3. Place a perfectly fitting filter/strainer in the bin.
4. Take a newspaper sheet and cover the filter fully.



5. Add solid food waste/kitchen waste like fruit peels, cut vegetables etc.
6. Add around 2 tablespoons of compost maker powder evenly. For every 2 inches of waste, add the powder again. Adding less powder will make the waste to rot, giving out foul smell.



7. Seal the bin airtight after use. Do not keep the lid open for longer time; microbes will die if there is too much air inside. Keep the bin away from direct sunlight or heat. This will kill the microbes.
8. Repeat the steps of adding food waste and compost maker till the bin is full.



9. Once the bin is full, make sure the lid is closed tight for the next 15 days. By now, it starts forming a liquid, which could be collected in a bottle using the tap. Collect the liquid for every 3 days.

This liquid which acts as a fertilizer, could be collected for 5-6 times in the next 15 days. Diluted fertilizer in the ratio of 1:30 could be used to spray on plants.

10. If the quantity is less, press the waste from the top and tilt the bin to collect the liquid fertilizer.

11. After 15 days, the food waste would have pickled. White mould and a sour pickle kind of a smell is a good sign. Drain off all the liquid.



12. After the food waste is pickled, it is time to cure the pickle and make the compost. Take the coco peat blocks ($20 \times 10 \times 3 \text{ cm}^3$) and place it in any container. Add 1-1.5 liters of water into that and wait for 20 minutes. Break the coco peat block evenly into a powder form. Now, mix the coco peat powder with the pickle.

13. Lastly, take a big container that can take up 20 kgs of compost, add 2-3 inches of pickled waste and 3-4 inches of coco peat powder. Continue the process till pickle waste is over.



14. Allow it to cure for next 2-3 weeks; finally pickle will become compost in this process. Compost is ready for the plants.

What to add

- Rice, roti (make them to small pieces before adding)
- Fruit peels and cut vegetables
- Meat, Fish, Cooked meat or vegetables, Egg shells
- Dosa, Idli or any rice dishes in solid form



What not to add

- Plastic, Paper, Glass
- Any cooked liquid items/food (Curry, Dal, Sambhar, Rasam, Buttermilk etc.)
- Spoiled/Hot food
- Threads from flowers



Note: If you are absolutely new to composting, a ready compost container will ease the preparatory process. The right ingredients are crucial to the success of your composting efforts.

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