

CHOOSING A HOME COMPOST SYSTEM

There are a range of things to consider when setting up a composting system including budget, space, amount of green waste produced, amount of food scraps produced, potential for vermin, and the amount of time and effort needed to make great compost. Below is some information on a number of commonly used compost systems. These are available from garden centres, hardware stores and online retailers.



COMPOST BINS – OPEN BOTTOM WITH TIGHT-FITTING LID

PROS

- Inexpensive
- Don't take up a lot of space
- Easy to move around the garden
- Great for both food scraps & garden waste
- Can produce quicker results if turned/ forked regularly
- Available in a variety of sizes

CONS

- Duration to maturity can be slow (3-6 mths) if 'cold' composting (not turning or aerating regularly)
- Not enough heat generated to kill weeds and pathogens



COMPOST TUMBLERS

PROS

- Regular turning aerates contents well
- Quicker time to maturity (4 – 8 weeks)
- Great for recycling both food scraps and garden waste
- Fully enclosed means no vermin

CONS

- More expensive than standing bins
- Can be heavy and difficult to turn
- Need more space than standing bins
- Not enough heat generated to kill weeds and pathogens



3.

COMPOST BAYS

PROS

- Large amounts of compost produced
- A 'hot' composting system that kills weeds and pathogens
- Inexpensive to build using timber, bricks or even hay bales
- Best for garden waste and lawn clippings

CONS

- Not well-suited for food scraps which can attract vermin
- Large amounts of ingredients needed
- One cubic metre (minimum) per bay required, suited to large gardens
- More labour-intensive to construct and turn the pile/s



4.

WORM FARMS

PROS

- Produces both solid and liquid nutrients for garden plants
- Suitable for smaller gardens and potted plants
- Good for households with small - to moderate amounts of kitchen scraps

CONS

- Worms can die in hot weather if not kept moist
- Can be hard to compost larger amounts of food scraps
- Not suitable for garden waste



5.

BOKASHI BUCKETS

PROS

- Suitable for small patio gardens and potted plants, or flats with no gardens
- Can put in all food waste including meat, fish and dairy
- No vermin or flies
- Good for households with small - to moderate amounts of kitchen scraps

CONS

- Access to land is required to bury the fermented liquid compost
- Expensive to buy the buckets
- Bokashi grain mix incurs ongoing costs
- Not suitable for garden waste

IMAGE SOURCES
tumbleweed.com.au
bokashi.com.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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