



# Composting biowaste

Composting is a controlled, aerobic process that converts organic materials into soil amendment through decomposition. When composting biodegradable waste from kitchen you need a composter that is designed for that purpose. The composter needs to be well-ventilated, properly enclosed and protected against pests or rodents. There should not be holes or gaps that are larger than 0,7 cm. The container can be insulated when used during winter. The compost must be placed and maintained properly. Composting should not produce any harm to health or environment.

Good compost mass improves the structure and health of soil. If compost starts to rot, there is not enough air available and it starts to smell. When compost is well taken care of, it does not give any unpleasant odours.

Basic ingredients:

- moist food scrap from kitchen
- dry matter (bedding), approximately 1/3 of the amount of food scrap
- air (oxygen)

Composting is done by microbes and fungi. Micro-organisms store carbon, nitrogen and oxygen in to soil in form what plants can utilize. Give small new batches of biowaste to micro-organisms regularly. The micro-organisms in the compost generate heat.

If compost is used only for kitchen waste it is useful to mix waste with bedding. At least fish, meat and dairy should be covered with old compost mass or bedding. Bedding gives structure and prevents mass to squeeze up into smelly and wet anaerobic layer. Dry matter can be for example shredded branches or woody materials, dry leaves, raking waste, biocarbon etc. Commercial composting accelerators and beddings are also available.

You can compost:

- all compostable organic matter

Do not compost:

- diapers, vacuum bags, cigarette ends
- medicine or other hazardous waste



When parts of biowaste can not be identified but mass produces heat when turned, it can be used as cover soil during growing season. Outside growing season it can be placed in piles for maturing. Well-matured compost mass can be used as a growing media in garden or pot planting.