

Some FAQ's

Why is my compost slimy and smelly?

This is usually caused by too much sappy nitrogen rich material such as grass. Try to find tougher material to balance the mixture. (Add more brown ingredients such as woody material or paper.) If the problem persists, use less grass; perhaps use the grass as a direct mulch on shrub beds.

Why is my compost bin very hot and has a strong smell?

A very hot bin may start to give off ammonia fumes. Reduce the heat by not shredding everything finely, leave more "chunks" of woody material. Try leaving the lid open overnight or in the rain and turn the compost in the bin regularly.

Why does my compost seem to stop altogether in the Winter?

You may have a very cold garden or the area around the composter may have a cold microclimate. Place a layer of used bubble wrap or straw around it to insulate it.

Why is the composting material damp and soggy?

Most home made compost is damper than bought compost, dry it out before use if you wish. Compost plenty of paper and light cardboard-up to half- and only dampen it if the bin gets too dry. The papery material helps to make a drier and more crumbly compost.

Why do I get a lot of flies in the compost bin?

Try putting a 5-10cm layer of torn up paper or grass cuttings on the top of the bin every day and leave the lid open for a few hours.

How do I stop rodents getting into the bin?

Rodents aren't attracted to compost bins but you often see them as nearly all gardens in Ireland have rodents and the odd mouse may investigate. To prevent this place a layer of bird cage wire under the composter and turn up the edges or use a layer of builders mesh at the bottom.