

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING - FAQs



Why is food waste a problem?

Each year in Victoria, households throw out 250,000 tonnes worth of food – enough wasted food to fill Melbourne's Eureka Tower!

Almost two thirds of the food Victorian households throw away could have been eaten and is costing the average household \$2,136 a year in wasted food.

Around half of our household rubbish is made up of food and garden waste. Food in landfill breaks down in a way that can create greenhouse gases, including methane, which affect air quality and contribute to climate change.

Composting instead of putting this waste in your rubbish bin stops it from going to landfill and creates a useful product instead.

Why is Span delivering this food waste composting service?

So many reasons!

- We are doing our best to reduce our own environmental footprint and want to help our community to do the same.
- We have a Community Garden that benefits from compost materials being added to help things grow.
- We deliver community support programs that use the garden produce in our kitchen and in our neighbourhood, so a healthy garden is a key part of this.
- If the program is as successful as we hope, then we are keen to give back to the community in the form of excess compost, worm tea and fresh veggies from the garden when available.
- We are also keen to support other Neighbourhood House Community Gardens by passing on compost and worm tea to help their gardens flourish.

Why use this if I have access to the Darebin Council kerbside food waste service?

Some people do have access to this service, but people in apartments and some renters or homeowners do not, so we are happy to offer an alternative solution to those that need it.

Even if you do have a Green Bin from Council, you can still choose to bring some of your food waste to us if you'd like to contribute to the good things it does for our community.

What kind of composting systems does Span have?

For this community program we are using basic compost bins that we will fill up and use over time. We also have worm farms that we put our own kitchen waste into but we need to be really careful of contamination in these more sensitive environs to are running both systems at the same time.

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What can I do to help create the best compost possible?

Help Avoid Contamination - You can avoid the key problem items which are detailed in the section below.

Help Create Quality Compost - You can help materials break down faster if they are chopped into smaller pieces. This is particularly useful for things with tough skins/seeds/cores such as pumpkin, avocado and corn cobs.

Help Us Measure Benefits - You can help us monitor and measure our positive impacts by only using the collection buckets provided and logging your drop offs so that we can get accurate data for reporting and communication.

What are some of the things we can't accept, and why...?

Dairy – cheese and other dairy won't break down well enough in our system and has the potential to smell and draw pests.

Meat & Bones – meat won't break down well enough in our system and has the potential to generate pathogens, smell and draw pests.

Pet Waste – there can be pathogens present in pet faeces so for hygiene purposes we don't want these going into our gardens. Pet worming tablets can impact in a worm farm setting so this is something to consider if using this system at home.

Plastic Bags/Wrap – even if it's compostable/biodegradable etc. it will still fragment slowly in our system causing contamination. It also means volunteers have to waste time determining if the bag/wrap is true plastic or an alternative and our resources are too limited to allow for this.

Further resources to support your food waste avoidance and composting journey are available below

[Love Food, Hate Waste](#) - Don't let great taste go to waste. Love Food Hate Waste is here to help you reduce food waste at home with inspiring ideas, recipes, facts and resources.

[Shopping Sustainably](#) - there are so many sustainable food options in our community, so why not explore these to reduce your food footprint.

[Compost Revolution](#) - If you want to start your own composting at home you can great discounted equipment to get you started.

[Back to Earth Initiative](#) - if you use the Council kerbside collection you can find out what happens to food and green waste once it's picked up and processed.

More Info

[I Have Another Question](#) - If you have a question that hasn't been covered here or you would like to volunteer to support the program, please email or call us and we'll get back to you.