



# WHY WASTE IT? WHEN YOU CAN COMPOST IT AND CREATE BLACK GOLD!

A great way to win the war on waste is to compost your food and garden organics.

## Composting – why is it important?

Almost half, yes, around 48% of our waste could be made into compost. Composting your food and garden organics is great for our environment. Most of the harmful greenhouse gas emissions from landfill come from decomposing organic material which could be composted through your green lidded food and garden organics (FOGO) bin or in your home compost bin. Not only do green organics produce methane as they decompose, but their nutrients remain locked in landfill and can't be used again to grow plants and food. Compost is also known as 'black gold' as it is packed full of nutrients that can be used in gardens as a soil conditioner and slow release fertiliser. Compost can be used to fertilise gardens, farms and sporting fields and the mulch can be used to protect against weeds, reduce plant stress and save water in gardens, parks, orchards and vineyards.

Composting and mulching green organics is also cheaper than sending them to landfill. If we reduce the amount of material sent to landfill then councils can pass on these savings to residents and invest in other community services.

Whether you compost through your food and garden organics in the green lidded FOGO bin or in your own compost bin, you are helping to save half of your waste from going to landfill and instead turning it into black gold.



## What can be composted in the green lidded food and garden organics (FOGO) bin?



## Use a kitchen caddy to collect your food scraps.

Line the basket with a compostable bag or newspaper, place your food scraps in then after 2-3 days or once full, tie the bag at the top and place it into your green lidded FOGO bin. Kitchen caddies and liners are supplied through your council. If you haven't already got one, contact your council or drop in to the Civic Centre to pick one up.



## What happens to the green organics after collection?

East Waste collects the green organics and delivers them to Jeffries composting facility where they are processed and turned into compost. The materials are left in large piles called windrows for 8-10 weeks to mature before being processed and screened through the R.O.S.S.3.0; Recycled Organics Screening System. The R.O.S.S.3.0 removes contamination such as plastics, metals, glass, cloth, rubber, stone, ceramics and rocks and creates a rich and fertile compost or black gold.

Compost and mulch create healthy soils and help to grow fruit and vegetables, closing the loop on food and organic garden waste.

## What doesn't go in FOGO?



No plastic bags – only certified compostable bags can be used.



Please keep plastic pots and trays out. Empty plastic plant pots and seedling trays can be placed in the yellow lidded recycling bin. Make sure they are free of soil first.



No Garden hoses, irrigation pipe or garden tools.



No batteries or hazardous chemicals.



No Nappies! Please place all disposable nappies in the general waste/waste to landfill bin, even those claiming to be compostable or biodegradable. At present there isn't any brand of nappy that is certified compostable as they still have plastic components that do not break down.



Bricks, rocks, building materials and wire are other items we don't desire.

**THANK YOU FOR COMPOSTING IT. YOUR EFFORTS REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**