

Composting Household Pet Poo

This guide provides practical tips to help you easily compost pet poo at home and return nutrients to your soil.

Why compost pet poo?

While pet waste can't go in your kerbside recycling or FOGO bins, you can still put it to good use at home. Composting pet poo helps you:

- Create a nutrient-rich soil additive for your non-edible plants
- Manage pet waste responsibly and keep it out of landfill

What pet waste can be composted?

You can compost waste from dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, horses, chickens (and more).

You can also add organic or paper-based pet litter and pet fur.

Choosing a composting system

Pet poo can be composted at home with or without worms. You can:

- 1) Buy a ready-made system, or
- 2) Build a simple DIY version

DIY composting options

Get creative! Any bottomless container with a secure lid can work, such as:

- PVC pipe with a cap lid
- An old bucket or bin with a lid and with the base removed

Setting up your system

Once you've chosen your composting unit:

- Place it in a shaded area
- Choose a position away from food gardens
- Dig it into the soil so the top sits at least 5 cm above ground
- Make sure the lid stays above ground for easy access



How to use your composter

To keep your system working well, balance pet waste with dry materials. Pet waste is high in nitrogen, so you'll need to add carbon materials to prevent smells and excess moisture. Each time you add waste:

- Add a handful of dry leaves or shredded paper
- Keep the lid closed to prevent pests and odours
- Keep material moist (not waterlogged)
- Avoid overfilling

Add-Ons

Help speed up your pet waste breaking down by adding a bokashi bran or worms to your composting unit.

Using bokashi bran

Bokashi bran can help with reducing odours and speeding up decomposition. Sprinkle a layer over the top each time you add pet waste. You can purchase bokashi bran or make your own DIY version.

Adding worms

Worms are great helpers they break down waste faster and improve soil quality by adding casting to your garden. Getting started:

- Use compost worms (not garden worms)
- Add some compost or worm castings at the bottom of the unit
- Keep the system moist and cool

How many worms?

The number will depend on how much waste you're adding. As a guide, 1 kg of worms can process around 300 g of waste per day.

Worms will naturally spread nutrients into surrounding soil as they work. Worms love to stay cool and will seek moisture, remember to give your worms some water when adding pet waste to the unit.

Where to get worms:

Available from garden centres or suppliers like The Worm Shed (wormshed.com.au).

Handy Tips

- Empty pet poo from compostable bags before adding it to the system
- Reuse rabbit/guinea pigs bedding (straw or paper) as a carbon source in your unit
- Some paper based/compostable kitty litter in small amounts can be added, monitor how it breaks down
- Avoid adding pet waste for one week after worming treatments
- One unit is usually enough. If it fills faster than it breaks down, consider installing a second unit.
- Always bury finished compost at least 15 cm below soil surface (do not spread on the surface of your garden)



Find out more:

Visit our Compost at Home webpage:
rockingham.wa.gov.au/compostathome



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