

# Before you start composting

## **Starting to Compost**

There are different methods and composting options to choose from. Before you start composting it is important to consider the following questions. They will help you decide which option is best for your requirements.

### **How much material do you want to compost?**

- If you only have a small amount of garden/kitchen waste consider buying a subsidised composter.
- If you have a regular amount of garden/kitchen waste consider an open composter as this will have more capacity.

### **What composting system do you want to use?**

- If you want your compost pile to fit in to a small area and to be covered consider buying a subsidised composter.
- If you want to have an easy access low cost composter consider building your own composter.
- If you don't want to buy or build a composter and have the space consider building a composting pile.

### **How much storage space do you have?**

- If you do not have any out door space and do not have any garden waste consider using a wormery.
- If you have only a small amount of storage space consider an enclosed composter
- If you have enough space consider using an open composter

### **How much time and effort do you want to invest?**

- If you don't mind waiting a bit longer for the garden waste/kitchen waste to decompose you can use the slow "Cold" method. This means you do not have to turn the compost very often but it will take longer for the material to break down.
- If you want to get compost quickly and are willing to put in a bit more time and effort you can use the quick "Hot" method. This means turning the pile regularly and making sure the balance between green nitrogen rich material and brown carbon rich material is maintained.

### **Do you want to dispose of your garden waste or kitchen waste?**

- If you do not have any garden waste or only want to dispose of kitchen waste consider using a wormery. A wormery creates "compost tea" (very good for plants) and small amounts of good quality compost.
- If you want to dispose of garden waste or garden waste and kitchen waste you will need to compost.