



Tomorrow's Packaging

A piece of fruit like a banana or orange is ready-packaged in its own tough skin.

We eat the fruit and then the skin can be composted.

The skin biodegrades. This means it breaks down becoming water, natural gases and substances called minerals. The minerals provide nutrients that will feed plants.

Nothing harmful is left behind.



Wouldn't it be great if instead of plastic packaging we had packaging that could be composted!



Many scientists and inventors are trying to design new packaging materials that are biodegradable.

Once the packaging is used, it can be composted. Then the compost can be used to feed plants such as fruit trees or vegetable plants.

No packaging would end up in landfill. And no harmful plastic would end up in the ocean.



Let's Make Compost!

Investigate how biodegradable materials become compost by making your own compost bin.

Gather your equipment:

- An adult helper with a drill or pair of sharp scissors
- A small patch of soil outdoors
- A plastic storage box with a lid
- Composting material (see below)
- Some potting compost
- A small shovel

Composting Material

The following materials can be put into your compost bin:

- Vegetables and fruit
- Bread, pasta and rice
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Eggshells
- Grass and plant clippings
- Dead leaves
- Old brown paper
- Used kitchen towel

Never put meat or fish in your compost bin.

1. Ask an adult to make about 12 small holes in the bottom of the box to allow water to drain out.
2. Next, ask an adult to make about 10 small holes in each side of the box to let air in.
3. Stand the box outdoors on a small patch of soil.



4. Cover the bottom of the box with a layer of composting material, about 5 cm deep. Then cover the material with a layer of potting compost about 2.5 cm deep.

Close the lid and you're ready to make compost.



5. Each time you have some vegetable peelings, an apple core or other composting material, put it in the box.
6. About every four weeks, use a small shovel to stir up and turn the compost. If it seems quite dry, sprinkle on some water. If it seems very wet or sloppy, add more potting compost. The mixture should be moist but crumbly.
7. Be patient! It will take several months for the compost to form. Then you can sprinkle it around plants to help them grow.



If you can find some worms in the garden, carefully place them in the box, too. They will feed on the composting material and help to make your compost!

