



# Green Home Guide



Museum2you



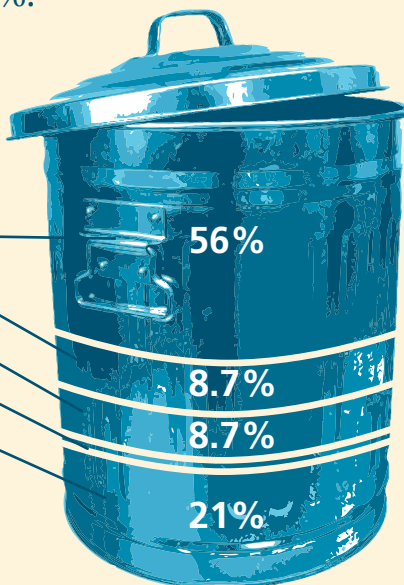
# It's NOT a load of rubbish

## Cut down on waste: Recycle

Most of the rubbish we throw out can easily be kept out of landfill. By following a few simple tips, you can keep recyclables out of your rubbish bin and reduce your household waste by up to 70%.

### What's in your rubbish?

Organic waste	56%
Recyclable paper	8.7%
Recyclable plastic	8.7%
Other recyclables	2.0%
General waste	21%



**Source:** Office of Environment and Heritage, Domestic Kerbside Waste and Recycling in NSW, 2007–2008

## The Recyclables



Glass bottles and jars



Aluminium cans



Steel cans



All kinds of paper and cardboard



Plastic bottles

## Sort it out

Set up a waste station that makes sorting easy. Include a bin for general waste, one for recyclables and one with a lid to collect all the organic material for your compost or worm farm. Label or colour-code your bins. The easier it is to use, the more you will use it.



## Keep it clean

Rinse out bottles, cans and containers before you recycle them. Recyclable loads that are too dirty and contaminated with food can be rejected at the sorting plant, putting all your efforts to waste. Keeping your recycling clean will also avoid attracting little critters and keep your recycling station smelling fresh.

## Buy smart

Look for products that are 'recyclable' or 'made from recycled materials' or both! Recycled materials are used to make items such as plastic bottles for drinks, laundry detergent and shampoo, cardboard boxes, aluminium and steel cans, copy and printer paper, recycling bins, construction materials and even furnishings.



Visit [recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://recyclingnearyou.com.au) for information about recycling services in your area as well as drop-off options for items including computers, batteries, printer cartridges, mobile phones and many more.

# Recyclable: **yes** or **no**?

## A guide to tricky recycling questions

Different councils have different recycling rules. Check with your local council to find out about recycling and waste services in your area.



NO plastic bags! Do not place recyclables inside plastic bags. Just one bag in your recycling bin could mean that the whole lot goes to waste.

### E-waste? **YES!**

Many electronics can be recycled, so don't just toss them. This includes everything from fridges and microwaves to mobile phones and computers. Put them aside and find out where to drop them off.



### Pizza Boxes? **YES!**

Most councils recycle **EMPTY** pizza boxes. If your council doesn't, shred them up and use them in your compost.

## Plastic bottles and packaging? **YES!**

But which plastics can you recycle? All disposable plastic bottles and containers used in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry can be recycled.

Caps and lids off! Take the caps off bottles and the lids off jars and throw them in the garbage—they cannot be recycled.



Stuart Humphreys © Australian Museum



Stuart Humphreys © Australian Museum

## Milk and juice cartons? **YES!**

Make sure they are empty and give them a rinse before placing them in the recycling bin.

## Broken glass, crockery, mirrors? **NO!**

Only recycle glass bottles and jars (with lids and caps removed). Dispose of broken glass carefully in your garbage bin.



Stuart Humphreys © Australian Museum



## Needles and syringes? **NO!**

Needles and syringes cannot be recycled. They must be placed in a special sharps bin and disposed of at a community sharps disposal facility or at any public hospital. Visit [safesharps.org.au](http://safesharps.org.au) for the location of safe disposal facilities in your area.

## Household chemicals, paint and automotive waste? **YES!**

Hazardous items and chemicals such as solvents and household cleaners, florescent globes and tubes, paint and paint related products, car batteries, motor oil, fuels and fluids should be disposed of correctly. Find out about household chemical disposal events in your area at [environment.nsw.gov.au/households/cleanoutguide.htm](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/households/cleanoutguide.htm).



Green Tree Frog: iStockphoto®

# Cut down on waste: Reduce

The best way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Waste is not just created when we throw things away; it is also created during the production, processing, manufacturing and transportation of a product. Cutting down on your waste is easy. Here are some ideas.

## Less stuff

It's simple. Buy only what you need and use all of what you buy.



## Say 'no' to plastic bags

Refuse store bags when you buy only a few items or take a reusable bag with you. If you do get plastic bags, reuse them for as long as they hold up.

It's estimated that plastic bags may take between 500 to 1,000 years to breakdown in landfill.

## Be package wise

Look for products with minimal or recyclable packaging. Avoid single-serve containers or individually wrapped items and choose the concentrated or refillable form of products like juices and cleaning products.



## Buy in bulk

Reduce waste from packaging by buying in bulk. For example, buy the largest box of toothpaste, dishwasher detergent, or cereal, rather than a series of small boxes. This will reduce waste and save you money.



## Grow your own

Start a garden in your backyard or contribute to a community vegetable patch. Food that you grow yourself reduces waste from packaging, as well as carbon emissions from production, processing and transport.



## Fresh is best

Buy less processed foods and more fresh fruits and veggies. They come wrapped by nature in their own natural packaging and any waste can be tossed in the compost or worm farm.



## NO junk mail!

Place a *No junk mail* sign on your mailbox. Try to reduce the mail that comes to your house in paper format such as newspapers and catalogues. Opt to receive bills by email and pay them online.



# Cut down on waste: Reuse

Instead of tossing it, reuse it. Find another way of using something or give it to someone else. Here are some simple ideas on how to reuse and keep items from ending up in landfills.



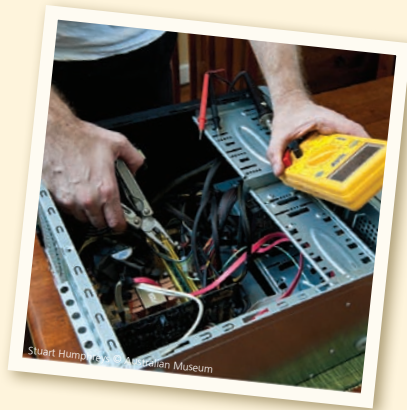
Anoplognathus viriditarsus © Australian Museum

## Find another use

Glass bottles and jars, newspapers, cardboard boxes and plastic bottles all have lots of uses around the house. Find other uses for things before putting them in the bin.

## Fix it

New is not always better (or necessary). You can save money and reduce waste by keeping items such as furniture and appliances longer and repairing them when they break, rather than buying new ones.



Stuart Humphreys © Australian Museum



Carl Bento © Australian Museum

## Trash to treasure

Why throw something away if someone else can enjoy it? Hold a garage sale to find a new home for the things you no longer want or need, or donate them to op shops. When you need to buy something new, check garage sales and op shops yourself before going to retailers.

Join the Freecycle Network™—a network of people who are giving and getting stuff for free in their own towns, thus keeping it out of landfills. Check out [freecycle.org/group/AU/](http://freecycle.org/group/AU/)



## Reusable not disposable

Buy items that you can use over and over rather than disposable items (e.g. buy reusable razors rather than the disposable ones). Carry your own water bottle or take along washable cups or travel mugs. A lot of restaurants and stores will be glad to fill or refill your own mug.

In 2009, the NSW town of Bundanoon was the first in the world to ban the sale of plastic water bottles, encouraging residents to use reusable water bottles.

## Wash it; don't toss it

Use washable table serviettes and table cloths instead of disposable ones. It's just as easy to toss them in the wash instead of the bin and they can dress up your dinner table too.

## Compost or worm farm

When food waste breaks down in landfill it produces greenhouse gas. Instead of throwing it out, start a compost heap or worm farm and transform your household food and garden waste into a rich fertiliser that you can use in your garden or potted plants.



Get tips on how to reduce food waste at [lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au](http://lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au)

# Green cleaning

## Healthy grime zappers

Powerful cleaners that zap grime can contain ingredients you'd really rather not be breathing, wearing or washing in. Here are better ways of cleaning that are healthier for you, your family and our planet.

### Get Your Kit Together

**Bicarbonate Soda** (aka Bicarb soda, baking soda or sodium bicarbonate): Bicarb soda is an excellent odour absorber and mild abrasive for cleaning.

**Borax:** Natural in its concentrated form, borax disinfects, deodorises and inhibits mould growth. Keep out of reach of children as it can be an eye irritant and is toxic if swallowed.

**Essential Oils:** Essential oils such as mint, eucalyptus, lavender and tea tree can be used for deodorising or scenting cleaners.

**Lemon Juice:** A mild bleach, deodorant and cleaning agent.

**Pure Soap:** Pure soap is vegetable-based, rather than made from animal-derived glycerine.

**Washing Soda (sodium carbonate):** Slightly caustic and a great grease cutter. Don't use it on waxed floors (unless you want to remove the wax), fibreglass or aluminium.

**White Vinegar:** Removes soap scum, grease and mineral deposits and acts as a deodoriser.



### WARNING

These ingredients may be toxic in their concentrated form. Read the warning labels on the packaging and take care when using them.

# Recipes for a spotless healthy home

## Everyday All Purpose Cleaner

1 cup vinegar

1 cup water

Fill a spray bottle with half water and half white vinegar.

Spray on any surface (except wood) and wipe off.

Leave for 5 minutes on soap scum.

## Gutsy All Purpose Cleaner

1 tsp borax

½ cup bicarbonate soda

Vinegar

Eucalyptus oil

Place borax and bicarb soda into a recycled glass jar. Mix in enough vinegar to make a paste. Add a few drops of eucalyptus oil. Wipe mixture onto surfaces to be cleaned and wipe off with a soft

cloth. You can make a milder version of this paste without the borax. If the paste dries out over time, simply add more vinegar.



The Gutsy All Purpose Cleaner makes a great stain remover and can be left on stains overnight before washing.

## Oven Cleaner

Bicarbonate soda

Vinegar

Sprinkle a little bicarbonate soda over oven surface. Spray vinegar over bicarbonate soda (watch it sizzle!) then leave overnight. Wipe off with a cloth dampened with water. Wipe over one final time with vinegar on your cloth.



## Dishwashing Detergent

Use pure soap to wash dishes and add white vinegar to the rinse water for an extra shine.

## Laundry Detergent

1/3 cup grated pure soap

1/3 cup washing soda

Dissolve pure soap and washing soda in a bucket of hot water.

The mixture will set to a gel. Use 2-3 cups per wash.

## Awesome Liquid Handwash

250ml boiling water

2 tsp glycerol or glycerine

2 tbsp grated pure soap

2 tsp rosewater

Add the grated soap to boiling water, stir and then let sit for about 10 minutes until it melts. Stir in glycerol and rosewater. When the mixture is smooth, pour it into a dispenser bottle. Do this while it is still warm as it will set to a jelly when cold and be difficult to pour.



## Mould Remover

Vinegar

Salt

Mix equal parts of vinegar and salt into a spray bottle. Spray onto mouldy surface, leave for a few minutes and then wipe off using a soft cloth.

## Window Cleaner

1 part vinegar

4 parts water

Mix vinegar and water into a spray bottle.

Spray onto windows and wipe off with window squeegee or a soft cloth.

## Drain and Toilet Cleaner

1 cup bicarbonate soda  
1 cup vinegar

Put vinegar into a spray bottle. Sprinkle bicarb soda into toilet bowl and spray vinegar on top. Watch it react. Leave it for 10 minutes then clean with a toilet brush and flush. To finish, put a few drops of tea tree oil on a cloth and wipe around the bowl and seat to provide some antibacterial protection.



## Squeaky clean baby steps

Start by scrutinising the labels on your cleaning products and then go on a product diet. Phase out harmful commercial cleaning products and replace them with healthy alternatives.



Get more tips on how to make your home safer, greener and healthier at [safersolutions.org.au](http://safersolutions.org.au)

## A note on commercial cleaning products

There are many environmentally responsible cleaning products on the market. If purchasing commercial cleaning products, look out for these qualities:

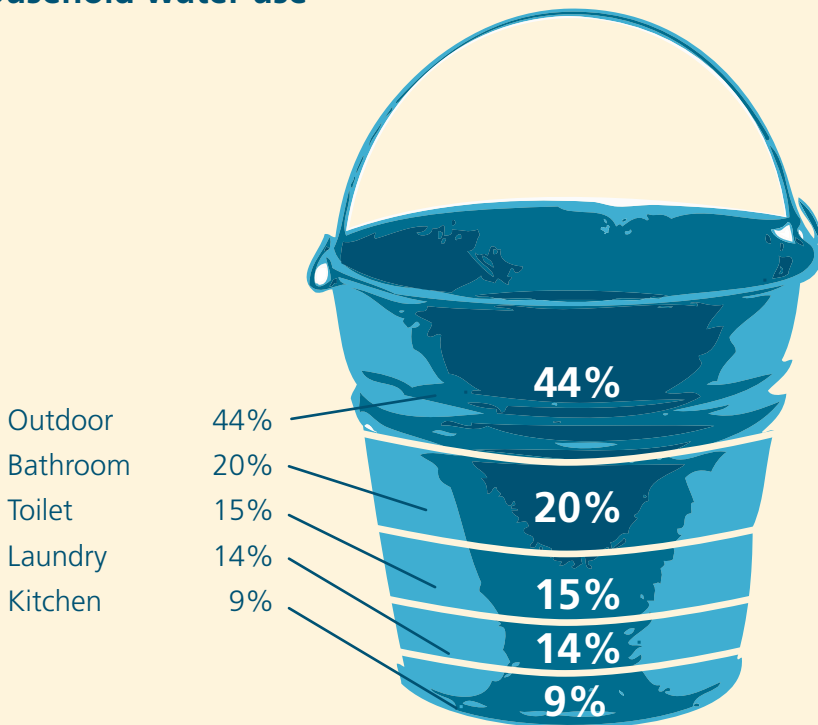
- Phosphate free
- Low sodium content – less than 20 grams per wash
- Plant-based ingredients
- Synthetic fragrance free
- Petrochemical free
- Microfibre cloths

# You can save buckets!

## Save water, save money and save the planet

The average Australian household uses about 280,000 litres of water per year. (The equivalent of 8 petrol tankers). But by making simple changes, you could save buckets.

### Household water use



**Source:** Australian Bureau of Statistics, Water Account, Australia, 2000-01

## Shower power

Cut your time in the shower and install a water efficient showerhead. You can save around *8 buckets* per person per day.



Carl Bento © Australian Museum

## Half a flush will often do

Install a water efficient dual flush toilet. You can choose a full flush or a half flush and save around *4 buckets* per person per day. A brick wrapped in plastic or a bottle of water in the cistern will also reduce the volume of water used to fill the cistern.

1 bucket = 9 litres of water

## Cut the flow

To reduce the amount of water that goes down the drain, install aerators or flow restrictors to the end of your taps and save around *1 bucket* for each minute the tap is running. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing dishes and save around *2 buckets* each time you use the sink.



Carl Bento © Australian Museum



Lamprima aurata © Australian Museum

## Do a full load

Wait until you have a full load before washing clothes or dishes. When you're looking for your next appliance, a water efficient dishwasher could save around *2.5 buckets* per load and a water efficient washing machine could save up to *6.5 buckets* per load.



## Bucket your car

Use a bucket when washing your car, and then give it a quick rinse with the hose. This can save around *9 buckets* of water. Park the car on the lawn so that you can water your lawn at the same time.



Monitor your household water usage and see where you can make changes to save water. Download the Australian Museum's household water log: [australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You](http://australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You)

## Thirsty gardens and lawns

A sprinkler uses around *111 buckets* per hour! Use a timer for the sprinkler, water when it's cool outside, water the roots not the leaves and use mulch to reduce evaporation. Save all those buckets by installing a rainwater tank and using that water for the garden.

## Stop leaks

Repair any drips and leaks. Call a plumber or do it yourself. Fixing a leaky tap can save up to *22 buckets* per day and a leaky toilet up to *29 buckets* per day.

## The AAA rating scheme

The AAA water efficient rating scheme identifies appliances, fixtures and fittings that are water efficient. Look for the AAA label when you are shopping for these items.



# Watt a difference small changes can make

## Energy-saving tips

The average NSW household uses about 11 megawatts (MWh) of energy a year. This equates to eight tonnes of greenhouse gas. Making small changes to how you use energy can reduce greenhouse emissions and save you heaps.

### Switch to GreenPower

Switching to green energy is easy. Almost all electricity companies offer the choice of **GreenPower**, so just contact your energy supplier and ask for it. It can cost as little as an extra \$5 per week on average. However, you can minimize this extra cost by adopting energy-saving habits.



### Turn off lights

Turn lights off in rooms when you are not there. Change your old incandescent light bulbs for energy saving bulbs and swap your porch and garden lights for solar lights.



### Shut it off at the wall

Don't leave things on standby. Shut off computers, entertainment devices and small appliances *at the power point* when not in use.

### Check the fridge

You don't need a new fridge to cut energy use. Adjust the settings (4 to 5°C for the fridge and -15 to -18°C for the freezer) and make sure the door closes and seals properly.

Have an old second fridge that you don't need?  
Get rid of it for free. Visit [fridgebuyback.com.au](http://fridgebuyback.com.au)

## The wind in your clothes

Use a clothesline or drying rack to dry your clothes, rather than a dryer. They will smell fresher and save power.



## Get out of hot water

Heating water uses a lot of energy. Turn down the thermostat on your hot water system (no lower than 60°C). Use cold water when washing your clothes, take shorter showers and turn off the water system before leaving on your next holiday. Consider installing a solar hot water system—you'll save money in the long run.

## Temperature control

Don't over-cool or over-heat your home. Use a programmable thermostat—you can set it so that it only cools or heats during times when you are at home. Wear warm clothes in the winter and open windows to create draughts in the summer.



## Green renos

If you're doing renovations, consider some green improvements. Draught-proof your home, install energy efficient windows, insulate the roof, walls and floor, and add solar panels or a solar water heater.



## Reach for the stars

Next time you're looking to buy an appliance, check the star rating: The more stars, the more energy you will save.

Find out how much energy your household uses, then commit to making changes to reduce your consumption. Visit the Australian Museum website to get your household energy log: [australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You](http://australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You)

# Out and about

## Sustainable travel

In 2007, transport in Australia contributed nearly 59 million tonnes of greenhouse pollution. A large chunk of that was from motor vehicles. If we all make an effort to travel sustainably, we could significantly cut down on pollution and save money along the way.



### Get on the bike

Getting in the car is convenient, but for trips under 5km it's usually quicker to ride than to drive. If you're travelling into the city in peak hour even a 15km ride will be quicker than a car trip—you'll just fly past all the traffic. You also get to park at the door, for free, and get your daily dose of exercise.

### Take public transport

Jump on the bus or train. It's cheap, easy, convenient and reduces tonnes of greenhouse gas. If public transport is not available in your area, try the following options to reduce your travelling greenhouse gas emissions.





Image: iStockphoto®



Stuart Humphreys © Australian Museum

## Carpool

Carpooling is a fantastic option when public transport or cycling don't fit your needs. Carpooling with colleagues, friends and neighbours reduces the number of cars on the road and turns the drive into a time to socialise.

If you need a lift or have a spare seat in your car, check out [catchalift.com](http://catchalift.com)

## Car share

Why not avoid buying your own car? Explore the idea of sharing a car with a relative, partner or friend. You also get to share the costs, saving you heaps.

There are a few car share programs available. GoGet is available in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Check out [goget.com.au](http://goget.com.au)



Image © GoGet

## Make your car more sustainable

Keeping your car in good condition will reduce oil and fuel consumption, making your car more environmentally friendly. Regularly service your car and ensure your tyres are inflated at the correct pressure and are properly aligned. Your driving style can also influence your fuel consumption, so drive smoothly, reduce your speed, use the air conditioning sparingly and switch off your car instead of idling in traffic. When purchasing a car, consider environmentally friendly options such as smaller 4 cylinder, fuel-efficient cars.



## Travel light

Clean your car. Clear out your boot and rear seat of unnecessary items that just add weight to the vehicle. Every extra 45 kilograms carried in a vehicle can reduce the fuel efficiency by two per cent.

## Reduce your air miles

Instead of flying across the country or overseas for your next holiday, explore your own state or plan a stay-cation and enjoy your local area. Avoid flying to work meetings by planning video conferences or teleconferences with colleagues in other cities or countries.



# Eat by example

## Planet-healthy diet

The choices we make about what we eat every day affect the environment. It's easy to forget about the energy, water, chemicals and fuel involved in getting the food on our plates. Here are a few tips to help you choose foods that will keep you and the planet healthy.

### Eat less meat, eggs and dairy products

On average, Australians like a lot of meat and dairy on their plates—but these are the most resource intensive foods and also produce the most greenhouse gas emissions. You don't have to become a vegetarian or a vegan; just eat them less often, in smaller portions.



Reducing dairy by just 2 cups of milk (or equivalent) per week can save 13,000 litres of water and 250kg of greenhouse pollution a year.



### Buy organically grown

Organic food refers to food that is farmed using renewable resources, chemical-free pest control and fertilisers, and practices that maintain good quality soil and water. It also refers to livestock that is raised responsibly—that is, using practices that are natural and in-line with animal welfare. Look for the Certified Australian Organic label when you shop.



## Love your seafood AND our oceans

There's nothing more Australian than prawns on the barbie or fish 'n' chips at the beach. However, when choosing seafood, try choosing products that are fished or farmed in an environmentally responsible way. The Marine Stewardship Council certifies sustainably managed fisheries, so look for the MSC label when you're buying your seafood.

To get a list of certified seafood in shops and restaurants, check out the MSC website: [msc.org/where-to-buy](http://msc.org/where-to-buy)

## Think globally, eat locally

Shop at farmers' markets, buy foods that have a 'Product of Australia' label and choose foods that are in season. You will reduce your food miles, ecological footprint and your food will be fresher and tastier.



The average Australian's food travels over 70,000 kilometres from producer to consumer. That's nearly two times around the Earth.



## Whole foods are best

Replace junk food and highly processed foods with whole foods such as fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, seeds, beans and legumes. Whole foods require less packaging and processing, which saves on energy, greenhouse gas emissions, chemicals and waste. Your health and the planet will both benefit.



# Composting

## Your garden will love you

Composting can cut your waste by 56%. Kitchen and garden waste in landfill produces methane gas—a greenhouse gas that is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. So, instead of turning your organic waste into harmful gas, turn it into a rich fertiliser for your pot plants and garden.

### Build a composting station

You can buy a composter or make one yourself using chicken wire, wood or concrete blocks. Ensure you have a lid to keep rainwater and pests out. Choose a site in your backyard in a sunny spot with good drainage.



### What to compost

Start collecting compost. You will need a mixture of different materials that are either rich in nitrogen or rich in carbon.

Fresh, green, nitrogen-rich organics:	Dry, brown, carbon-rich organics:
fruit and veg peelings/scrap	dry leaves
tea bags	straw/hay
pasta	wood chips/sawdust
coffee grounds	napkins
stale bread	dryer lint
eggshells	vacuum cleanings

Keep a bucket in the kitchen to collect food scraps.



## ADAM makes great compost

To make great compost, just follow the ADAM principle:

**Aliveness** – the more micro creatures the better! A compost heap contains micro organisms that act as natural decomposers.

**Diversity** – add a variety of materials to your compost. Food scraps, grass clippings, newspaper, straw, seaweed, dust, etc.

**Aeration** – your compost needs air to stay alive. Turn the heap each week with a garden fork to keep your compost fresh.

**Moisture** – a dry compost heap slows decomposition down. Your compost should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge.

## Reap the benefits

Your compost should be ready to use in about 3-4 months. You can use your compost for potted plants, as mulch around outdoor plants and as a top dressing for your lawn. It will strengthen your plants' immune systems and keep them healthy and vibrant.



Live in an apartment or don't have a backyard? Start a worm farm instead. Worms can turn your organic waste into a rich fertiliser and can be kept outside, inside, on the balcony or in the garage. To find out how to build a worm farm, visit the Australian Museum website: [australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You](http://australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You)



## Problems? Try these quick fixes!

Composting is easy, but just like with baking, sometimes the recipe just doesn't work. Here are some common problems and simple solutions to make composting a success.

### Smelly compost?

Your compost can get smelly if it is too wet or if there is not enough air in it.

#### Quick fix

Turn the compost regularly to get air into it and ensure that there is good drainage. Add dry leaves or garden mulch to dry it out. Add saw dust or newspaper to your food waste before adding it to the compost.



### Little critters?

Some insects and small animals like ants, cockroaches, mice or rats may make their home in your compost.

#### Quick Fix

Cover compost with hessian cloth or jute. Place some chicken wire under the bin and add wood ash to green organics to keep out small animals. Turn the compost regularly and add moisture to discourage ants and cockroaches.



## Compost too soggy or too dry and dusty?

Depending on the season or where you live, your compost might get either too wet or too dry. If your compost is slow to mature, it might not be hot enough, or there might not be enough air or water in it.

### Quick fix

If your compost is soggy, place a lid or a tarp over it to keep rain out and fluff it up to get some air in. Add some more of the fresh, green, nitrogen-rich organics to heat it up and remove the moisture. If your compost is dry and dusty, turn the compost and add some water to make sure it is moist enough.



## Plants growing in your compost?

If weeds or even vegetables are sprouting in your compost, it might not be hot enough to kill all the seeds it contains.

### Quick fix

Pull out the weeds and toss them back in. Warm up your compost by adding some more green nitrogen-rich organics like shellfish shells and fibrous materials like corn cobs or sawdust. Your pile should heat up within a few days. Keep it hot by turning it every week or two.



Adding seafood to your compost may make it smelly. Keep that in mind if the compost heap is close to your home.

# Green gardens

## An eco-oasis in your backyard

Here are some tips on how to create an eco-friendly oasis at home that will become a haven for native wildlife and supply you and your family with tasty home grown fruit and veggies.



### Be water wise

Carry through good water-saving habits to your garden. Group plants with similar watering needs together, water the roots and soil rather than the leaves and flowers, and choose drought-tolerant plants that need less water. Water your garden in the cool of the evening or early morning and use mulch and compost to reduce evaporation. Locate gardens in areas that will capture 'runoff' rainwater from the roof: It reduces the need for watering and diverts storm water from draining into rivers and creeks.

### Grow your own food

With a little patience and some gardening know-how, it's possible to grow your own fresh food at home. First choose a site with plenty of sun. Prepare your planting area by mulching, composting and regularly turning over the soil to eliminate weeds. Find out what is in season and choose what you want to plant—pumpkins, potatoes, beetroot, carrots, lettuce and tomatoes are all good choices. Give your seedlings or seeds a good deep watering when you first plant them and water regularly after planting (but don't overwater!).





Stuart Humphreys © Australian Museum



Bird WING Butterfly © Australian Museum

If you don't have a garden, use pots, planters or even recycled polystyrene boxes and place them on your balcony or courtyard. You can plant small lettuce, snow peas, herbs, Asian salad greens, cherry tomatoes and even strawberries.

## Raise some chooks

Raising and keeping chickens in the backyard is an easy, economical way to get fresh eggs and save money. They are fairly inexpensive to maintain and you are guaranteed to have eggs that are chemical and hormone free.



Stuart Humphreys © Australian Museum

Before getting chickens, get familiar with the standards for keeping poultry. Check the NSW legislation Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Schedule 2, Part 5, Division 2 at [austlii.edu.au](http://austlii.edu.au)

## Chemical free pest control

**Adopt natural ways** to control pests in your garden instead of resorting to chemicals.

**For sap sucking insects** such as aphids, try soapy water applied directly onto the insects.

**To discourage snails**, place saucers of beer in your garden. The snails will drink the beer, fall into the saucer and drown. Snails also dislike travelling over sawdust, so sprinkle some near the base of plants to deter them.

**To get rid of cabbage moths**, sprinkle half eggshells throughout your veggie garden. The moths mistake the egg shells for other moths and leave the area.

**To kill weeds**, pour boiling water directly onto them.

**To get rid of powdery mildew**, spray milk directly onto affected leaves. Or try a mix of 4 litres of water, 4 teaspoons of baking soda and half a cup of white oil as a spray.

**For blackspot on roses**, mix a litre of soapy water and a litre of skim milk and spray onto the roses every few days.



Used with permission from North Sydney Council

## Create a native haven

We modify the habitats of many wildlife species to build our neighbourhoods, towns and cities. You can create a native haven in your garden that will encourage wildlife to come and share your backyard.



### Birds in your backyard

Attract wild birds by creating a garden that will provide food, shelter and nesting materials and sites. Local flowering plants and fruit trees provide birds with nectar and seeds. To provide birds with some protein-rich food, use mulch to encourage worms, insects and grubs to thrive. Plant dense prickly native shrubs for shelter, hang up nesting boxes and install a bird bath.



Green and Golden Bell Frog  
© Australian Museum

## Frog-friendly gardens

Encourage frogs to come to live and breed in your backyard. Create a small shallow pond in an area that is partly shaded. Include thick ground hugging plants around part of the pond to provide areas of warmer and cooler water. Your pond will need some sunlight to encourage algae and other plants that provide food for tadpoles. Make sure the banks slope gently so that the frogs can get out. Add some rocks and logs to provide shelter for adult frogs.

## Create a buzz

Not all bugs are pests. Good bugs pollinate plants, break down dead flora and fauna, aerate the soil and provide for other wildlife. They can even help keep harmful pests away. Create an inviting environment for good bugs by planting plenty of native plants, wildflowers and herbs and use chemical-free pest control when the pests do creep in.

Find out more about the wildlife in your backyard on the Australian Museum website. Explore resources on Australia's biodiversity, conduct invertebrate field work investigations using Bugwise and identify birds using Birds in Backyards.  
[australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You](http://australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You)

Gum leaves featured throughout this booklet: iStockphoto®



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Noisy Miner © Australian Museum

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## Australian Museum

6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010

Open daily 9.30 am – 5.00 pm

[www.australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/Museum-2-You)

