COMPOST

- •Compost is good for the garden and will save you money in reduced waste disposal charges by about a third
- ■Material is added in layers. This will decompose and compact as you keep adding material. Eventually the bin will become full. The compost bin should then be left for about 3 4 months for worms and other organisms to finish converting all the material into compost, after which it will look and feel like dark crumbly soil. Making compost using County Council bins takes between 6 months 1 year depending on how much, and the rate at which fresh material is added, and the temperature throughout the year
- •Important to layer materials that you add. Do not add too much of one material at a time. Air is important for decomposition so crumpled up paper which provides air gaps is good
- ■Place bins in a warm sunny position
- There are few strict rules: the following is a guideline and you will find quite a lot of conflicting advice

Wet / Green Materials

Raw Vegetable & Fruit Peelings

Crushed Egg shells

Tea Bags

Coffee grounds

Cooked vegetables

Grass clippings

NOT TO PUT IN

No bad weeds such as couch or buttercups

No Meat or Fish

No whole potatoes (or they will sprout and grow)

No plastic / metals

No large sticks, pieces of wood

No paper /cardboard with excess of ink or any glossy finishes

Dry / Brown Materials

Crumpled paper to allow air gaps

Torn up cardboard

Leaves & Plant stems

Dead flowers and leaves from the garden

Contents of Hoover

Hair / Wool

Alternate layers of

Wet, Green materials &

Dry, brown materials

each about 5cm thick

Optional paving slabs or stone flags - important to allow gaps between stones to allow passage of worms

Otherwise place bin on bare grass or earth

Finishing layer of soil or farmyard manure

This is added when all the layers underneath have been allowed to compact down at the end of the season

10cm thick layer of twigs + old compost / urine / seaweed / fresh manure as an activator

Layer of expanded metal or other barrier to stop mice and rats

Earth or grass

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MEAS is a voluntary community group, established in February 2002 to encourage community involvement in resolving critical waste issues in County Donegal. We meet on the Second Monday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in Óstán Loch Altan, Gort a' Choirce and anyone interested is welcome to join in. All our work is voluntary. Contact Meas on www.meas-it.com or 087 6111524 / 086 8460764.