



Community Growing Circle

Community Compost User Manual

Thank you for signing up to use the community compost as part of Taking Root's Community Growing Circle project. Your kitchen caddy is for collecting your food waste and transporting to your community compost.

What to put in your caddy

It is important to have a good mix of green and brown waste. 50:50 ratio is ideal.

YES to green waste such as:

- Uncooked fruit and vegetable matter
- Tea bags, coffee grounds and filters
- Egg shells
- Cut flowers and houseplant leaves

YES to brown waste such as:

- Paper and cardboard: egg boxes, pizza boxes, office paper, envelopes, newspaper, chippy paper, toilet roll inners, brown cardboard – please rip big bits up to postcard size pieces, and remove any Sellotape or plastic
- Wooden toothpicks, plastic-free cotton buds, cotton wool, pencil shavings
- Small twigs

What to NOT put in your caddy

- Cooked food and scraps from your plate
- Meat and dairy products
- Bread or pasta
- Large quantities of garden waste
- Glossy paper or card
- Cigarette butts
- Animal waste or cat litter
- Glass, metal, plastic – most of that can go in your recycling bin



LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Please note: We can accept small amount of rabbit bedding in the compost. **Please contact us first to discuss.**

Taking your food waste to the community compost

When your caddy is full, it's time to drop the contents off to the community compost.

These are the times when the community gardens are open:

North Park - Monday 10am-2pm and Wednesday 10am-2pm

South Park - Friday 10am-2pm

If you need to drop off at another time please contact the relevant community garden on social media - @thefriendsofsouthparkbootle for South Park and @thegatewaycollective for North Park

Just drop the food waste from your caddy into the compost – you don't have to do anything else.

If you are only able to drop off your caddy waste when the Community gardens are closed – both sites have a drop off point accessible from the outside.

Caring for your caddy

- If you want to line your caddy, ideally use newspaper, egg boxes or paper bags, such as what you get with fast food takeout's
- If you want to use a liner, please make sure it is labelled as **home-compostable**. *Compostable or biodegradable bags take longer to break down.* You can buy Wenterra home-compostable liners from www.wormcity.co.uk
- To clean your caddy, hose it with water, or clean it with warm soapy water.

Maintenance of the community compost

The compost will be turned regularly by Compost Works with the help of local volunteers. Turning the compost with a garden fork aerates the compost and stops it getting too dense and wet (and smelly!).

Damage to the community compost

Please report any damage or signs of vandalism to takingrootinbootle@gmail.com This is important so the compost doesn't cause nuisance to the local community or attract vermin. We will repair any damages promptly.

Fruit flies

Small fruit flies are common during the warmer months. They pose no harm to human health but can annoy some compost users. They are usually only visible when the lid is opened.

A good way to combat fruit flies is to turn the compost more often. This helps keep fresh additions of food waste buried under more rotted material, which isn't as attractive to fruit flies. It is also a good idea for everyone to add extra cardboard and paper into their caddies. This will absorb moisture from fruit waste, again making it less interesting to the flies.

If there are fruit flies in your home, you could wrap fruit waste in paper or tissue before placing it in your caddy. This can reduce the amount of fruit flies traveling from your home to the community compost.

Large flies (bluebottles or blowflies) should not be a problem in the community compost, as long as you don't put in meat or dairy waste.

Please let us know if you are concerned about flies, and we will come and investigate.

Leaving the scheme

If you want to stop using the compost, you can leave any time. We would appreciate if you could let us know, so we can keep our records up-to-date and collect the caddy from you.

Any questions or concerns?

Email us at takingrootinbootle@gmail.com and we'll try to answer them as best we can!