

## Compost Trouble Shooting

# Smells

### Causes

- Natural ammonia being released from the compost
- Too wet – usually caused by adding too much green material (eg grass cuttings) and not balancing it with brown materials (eg twigs).
- Compost has become compacted and there is not enough air getting through the heap

### What can you do?

- Turn the compost well to get some air in
- Add more brown materials such as chopped woody material or torn up card or paper.

### Remember

Doing all of these things initially will prevent it from smelling unpleasant in the first place. Compost has an odour, no matter what, but it should be a sweet earthy smell.

The organisms that compost kitchen and garden waste need a balance of water, air, heat and food to survive, this is what you are aiming for in your compost heap.

If you print this out when you have finished with it why not rip it up and put it in your compost heap!