

Compost Trouble Shooting

Vermin

Causes

- Compost bins are nice, warm places to live with a possible source of food.
- They have not been vermin proofed and are not disturbed enough.
- The wrong types of materials are being put into the compost bin.

What can you do?

- It is hard to vermin proof open heaps and wooded compost bins as they always have access points. In this instance, turning or prodding your compost can cause enough disturbance to make them move on. Burying fresh material also helps to deter their presence.
- Many compost bins are kept in a corner next to a fence or wall. This gives the vermin the advantage of being partly sheltered when accessing the bin. If possible the bin should be 1 metre out from the side of the garden to deter vermin from entering.
- The plastic containers supplied by the council can be vermin proofed. When setting up the composter, it should be placed on a grid of wire mesh. Using 1.5cm mesh will ensure that micro organisms can get through and do their work but that vermin cannot bury under the composter to gain entry.
- Try to avoid adding meat, fish, bones, dairy and fried foods to your bin.
- Sprinkling cayenne pepper liberally around the composter should help to deter them.
- Remember to always wash your hands after handling the compost!

Remember

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!