

Slow Decomposition

Causes

- Too much grass has been added making it too wet or too many large woody materials have been added making it too dry.
- Decrease in temperature.
- Materials have not been mixed up enough.

What can you do?

- Balance up grass cuttings with chopped woodier materials or torn up paper and cardboard.
- Woody materials take a long time to compost. By chopping them up, they create more heat in the compost and decompose quicker. This goes for all materials; they should be as small as possible.
- During the winter months, compost activity slows right down. Turning and prodding the heap will help to add air and mix the materials. You can also insulate the heap/bin using bits of old carpet or bubble wrap.
- Try using activators such as garden soil or compost from a previous batch.

Remember

It can take anything from 4 weeks to 2 years to make good compost; it depends on how much effort is put into getting the right mix of materials and conditions.

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!