RECICLO ORGÁNICOS

Chile and Canada against Climate Change

DOMICILIARY COMPOSTING GUIDE

How to combat Climate Change through recycling organics.

Programa supported by

Ministerio del Medio Ambiente
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Programa executed by

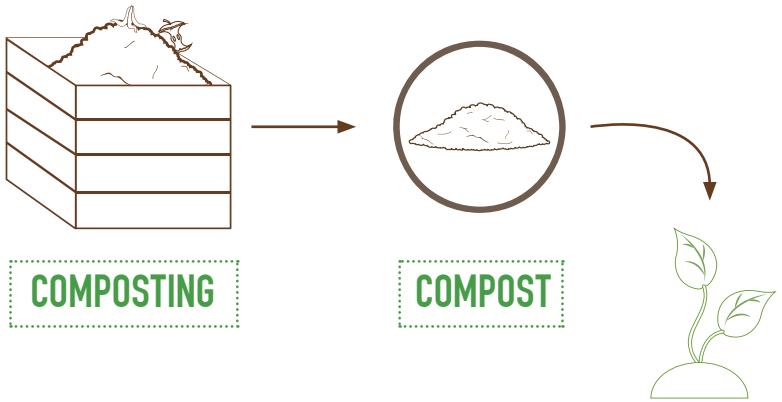
ARCADIS Design & Consultancy for natural and built assets

Organic waste corresponds to rests of animal or vegetable source that, when decomposed into a rubbish bin or landfill, emit Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that contribute to Climate Change.

Recycling organic waste allows reduce these emissions, besides to producing fertilizer or energy through different techniques, such as for instance: anaerobic digestion, composting, and vermicomposting.

What is composting?

Composting is a biological process that occurs in the presence of oxygen, and transforms organic waste into fertilizer for plants, named compost. The compost is a natural product, visually seems to earth, of brown to black color, rich in nutrients for the garden, plants or orchards.



Depending on the space available, the amount of material to be composted, and climatic conditions, domiciliary composting can be done in open spaces or in composters/containers.

When composting, it is important to have an even proportion of brown or dry matter (dry remains of pruning, straw, sawdust, cardboard, dry leaves) and green or wet matter (remains of fruits and vegetables, residues of maintenance of gardens).

The first step is to place a bed of about 10 cm of brown matter, and from that layer, start adding green waste, and so on.

How to compost at home?

STEP 1

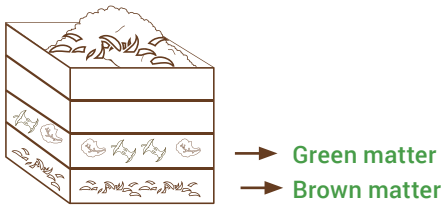
Separate the organic waste generated.

STEP 2

Place the composter (ideally in touch with the earth, in a place protected from rain).

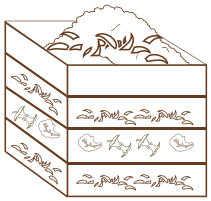
STEP 3

Incorporate a layer of brown matter and then one of green matter. It is recommendable to chop the remains before incorporating them in the compost pile or composter.



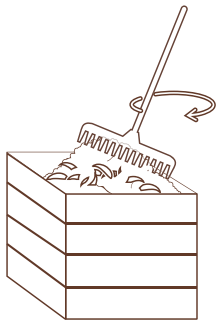
STEP 4

Do not fill the composter more than 2/3 of its capacity.



STEP 5

Mix (composter) / turn (compost pile) once a week.

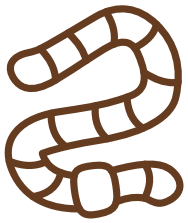


The waste decomposition process can take up to 6 months to produce compost.

What is vermicomposting?

Vermicomposting consists in using the Californian red worn for the degradation of organic waste and the production of humus (natural fertilizer).

To make a vermicomposting unit it is necessary to have a container or unused tinette. It is important that it has more than one tray or container to allow drainage of liquid humus and avoid saturation of water in the middle.



CALIFORNIAN RED WORM

- It feeds on organic
- It generates humus rich in nutrients nutrients
- Lives up to 5 years
- It does not transmit diseases
- Is able to eat the equivalent to its weight
- It measures between 6 and 10 cm

How to vermicomposting at home?

STEP 1 Separate organic waste generated.

STEP 2 Ideally, install the vermicomposter unit where it receives shade and is protected from rain.

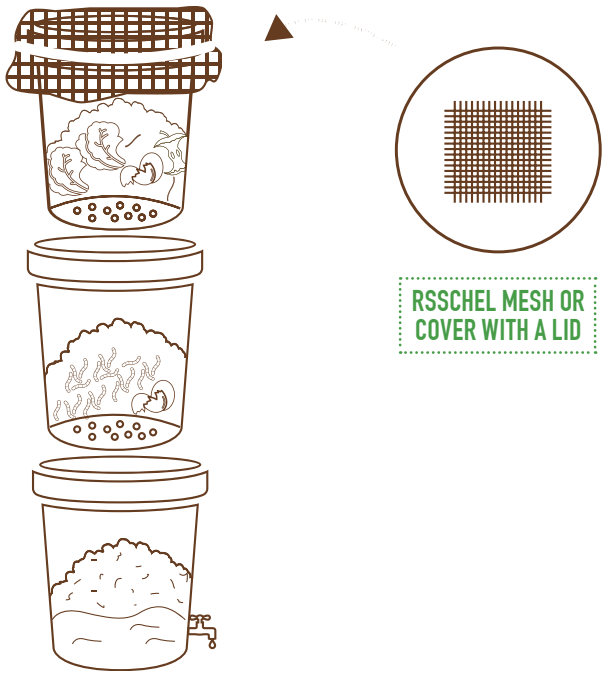
STEP 3 In the upper tray, prepare the bed of worms, for which it is necessary to cover the bottom of the vermicomposter with a piece of cardboard, earth or sheets of paper without ink.

STEP 4 Incorporate the worms and let stand one day.

STEP 5 Add green waste (fruits, vegetables) in the upper tray and cover with brown waste (cardboard, paper, rests of pruning). The proportion should be 3:1, that is, 3 parts of "greens" for 1 of "browns".

STEP 6 It is important to facilitate the aeration of the tray by removing carefully as fresh material is added.

After 3 to 4 months, remove the humus and let it stand for 10 days before use.



RSSCHEL MESH OR COVER WITH A LID

Recommendations:

* ***Have the vermicomposting unit covered with a cloth or mesh. It should not be filled (leave at least 5 cm of edge).***
* ***Incorporate the waste in small pieces.***
* ***If the bed is too dry, add fresh residues, if it is very wet, add some brown material.***

What can I compost/vermicompost at home?

Green materials: rests of fruits and vegetables, tea leaves, coffee grounds. Also it is possible to add citric, however it is recommended dry them before.

Brown materials: Brown materials: branches, garden leaves and rests of pruning, egg boxes in small pieces, cork, sawdust, cardboard.

You can also compost:

Beer or wine: if they are sour, they are rich in nitrogen and yeast, which favors to microorganisms of the compost.

Paper towels (procuring that they are free from germs).

To domiciliary level, it is not recommendable to compost residues from animal source, due to that without proper aeration, tends to produce strong smells and attract vectors.

When organic waste is managed sustainably, you contribute to preserve resources, avoid waste of food and combat climate change.

We can all contribute!

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For more information visit the website
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