

What can't I put in garden waste and why?

Food waste and kitchen waste – e.g. leftover food, bones, egg shells, vegetable and fruit peelings

- Because our composting process is carried out in the open air we are unable to process any form of kitchen waste. This includes leftover food and by products of food preparation such as fruit and vegetable peelings. This is a legal requirement.

Animal waste material – e.g. pet bedding, cat litter, dog poo bags

- The Animal By-Products Regulations were developed to help prevent the outbreak of diseases such as Foot and Mouth, and whilst the regulations may appear stringent, we have to legally comply with them.

Soil, stones, turf, treated wood and rubble

- These will damage the machinery used and cause contamination in the soil conditioner

Japanese Knotweed

- This cannot be placed in your green bin as it is classed as an invasive species. Whilst it is not illegal to have Japanese Knotweed in your garden, owners are legally responsible for not allowing Japanese Knotweed to spread.

Any biodegradable and compostable items such as coffee cups and soft plastics

- Biodegradable items cannot be placed in a garden waste collection as whilst being biodegradable this can be an undetermined length of time. Our composting process takes around fourteen weeks and any biodegradable items won't biodegrade in this time frame.
- Compostable items cannot be placed in a garden waste collection as despite being compostable, they have to be composted at industrial temperatures. As our composting process is outdoors, it doesn't reach the temperatures required.

Greengrow

Soil conditioner from garden waste across Herefordshire and Worcestershire

enquiries@severnwaste.co.uk

Greengrow Soil Conditioner



Severn Waste Services have been composting garden waste since the 1990's.

The resulting product is our soil conditioner which is marketed under the brand name 'Greengrow®'. Our soil conditioner is peat free.

We call our composted product a soil conditioner rather than a compost, so as not to confuse it with branded growing media, mainly peat-based, that is available from garden centres.

Our soil conditioner is processed outdoors from the garden waste collections from Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and from domestic brown bin garden waste collections.

What can I put in the garden waste collections?

Grass cuttings
Hedge trimmings
Twigs and small branches (max 2 inch/5 cm diameter)
Flowers and plants
Weeds

All items must be placed in loose. Any plastic bags, even if biodegradable, would be a source of contamination.

LET'S WASTE LESS



Herefordshire
Council



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So, what actually happens?

Our Hill and Moor composting facility receives 25,000 tonnes of garden waste every year.

The composting process takes between thirteen and fourteen weeks in total and takes place outside.

Once it arrives, it is tipped as green waste. This would be allocated a ticket number and processed in a designated area.

Once the amount of green waste is sufficient enough to form a furrow, it is shredded to ensure all the garden waste is of a uniform size. The furrow is known as a **windrow**. Each windrow is given a unique reference number.

Each windrow is monitored for both temperature and moisture content. Probes are used to measure the temperature and a hand test is used to check the moisture levels. (A handful is squeezed and there has to be enough moisture for it to stick together. It is given a number between 1 and 5. 1, too wet, 5 too dry.)

The first phase of the process is called **sanitisation**. The temperature has to be kept at between 65 and 80 degrees Celsius with a moisture content of either 3 or 4. This phase is completed when ten days of both the temperatures and moisture have been achieved. As the composting process is aerobic, the material has to be regularly turned to reoxygenate it. This also allows excess heat to escape.

The second phase is called **stabilisation**. This stage is cooler with temperatures between 45 and 80 degrees Celsius with moisture levels the same at between 3 and 4. Readings are taken weekly for eleven weeks.

Regular temperature and moisture readings are taken to ensure the right environment and conditions are created to allow bacteria to decompose the green waste and increase the speed of the process.

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After the 14 week composting process, the windrow is **Screened** to remove any large pieces of material which are classed as rejects, leaving the finer material which is the 'Greengrow®' soil conditioner.

The screened compost retains its original unique reference number which would be included on any weighbridge bulk sales tickets.

In line with **PAS-100**, samples of each windrow are regularly analysed to check the quality of the material and to ensure pathogens, such as E-coli, and contaminants are absent.

What is PAS-100 testing?

PAS-100 is the Publicly Available Specification for Composted Materials. It ensures that the composting process is managed correctly and defines what is acceptable in the final product.

Accreditation to PAS-100 means that the composted material is no longer a waste and can be offered for sale.

How do I buy 'Greengrow®'?

It is available (subject to availability) in 40-litre bags at our Household Recycling Centres and costs £3.00 per bag. Card payments only.

We can also supply larger quantities in bulk – either collected by the customer from Hill and Moor, or we can arrange a delivery. We charge £4 per tonne plus VAT for bulk product, with delivery charge on top. Minimum quantity for delivery is 8 tonnes.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.severnwaste.com/composting/>



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