

Where to Get Compost Ingredients

Composting needs a mixture of green (nitrogen rich, wet) and brown (carbon rich, dry) ingredients.

Aside from what you can produce in your own garden and kitchen, there are many free sources of these materials which you can often get just by asking nicely. Find businesses by looking up the Yellow Pages telephone book.

Material	Use	Sources
Used hay bedding from guinea pigs, chickens, rabbits etc.	Nitrogen and Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Pet shops – may come with newspaper which should be roughly shredded.  Breeders  Neighbours who keep these animals
Used sawdust from the bottom of bird enclosures (aviaries)	Nitrogen and Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Pet shops  Breeders
Coffee grounds	Nitrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Cafes  Petrol stations that sell coffee  Workplaces that use 'real' coffee
Tea leaves and bags, vegetable scraps	Nitrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Cafes  Restaurants  Work places  Churches
Grass clippings	Nitrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Neighbours who mow their own lawns  Lawn mowing contractors  School caretakers
Manure – sometimes there is a small charge, eg \$2 a bag.	Nitrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Pony clubs  Racing clubs  Horse breeders – Matangi, Cambridge...  Sheep farmers – under shearing sheds  Livestock sale yards
Seaweed	Nitrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  The beach <p>NB It is illegal to take it from a Marine Reserve</p>
Torn newspaper, cardboard, egg cartons	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Supermarkets  Most retail stores  Neighbours' recycling  Libraries
Tree Prunings, twigs, sticks	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Arborists, tree pruners  Gardening companies  On the ground in public parks
Dry leaves	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Arborists, tree pruners  Gardening companies  On the ground in public parks  Neighbours with deciduous trees
Bark	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Arborists, tree pruners  Sawmills
Untreated sawdust	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Sawmills, eg the one in Tasman Road
Wood ash	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Neighbours with fires (could barter)
Shells (crush them, or burn then crush)	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Seafood restaurants <p>NB It is illegal to take shells from beaches in the Waikato region</p>
Shredded paper	Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Workplaces with confidential information

You can also try web sites offering free resources such as:

www.freecycle.org/ and <http://ooooby.ning.com/group/hamilton>

Carbon rich materials also make good garden mulch.