



# How to make compost in a bottle

Making magic from muck!



## **Equipment needed:**

- A 2 litre plastic drinks bottle
- Sharp scissors (handle with care!)
- Newspaper, ripped into small pieces
- A packet of 'compost maker' or 'accelerator' from a garden centre for quick compost!
- Materials for different layers: soil, leaves and dry grass, fresh fruit and vegetable peelings, used coffee grounds and teabags
- Water spray
- Sellotape

## What to do:

1. Cut off the water bottle top but not completely – leave a small section to act as a hinge.

**Tip!**

An adult should make a slit in the bottle for children to then cut around the bottle – be careful it can be tricky!



## What to do:

2. Place 2–3cm of soil in the bottom of the bottle.
3. Add 2–3cm of vegetable peelings. Make sure they are cut up quite small.
4. Cover with a thin layer of soil and compost.



## What to do:

5. Add another layer of vegetables and cover with soil.
6. Add a layer of shredded newspaper and cover with soil.



## What to do:

7. Repeat layers until the bottle is nearly up to the cut. The final layer should be soil sprinkled with 'compost maker' or 'compost accelerator'.
8. Spray with water.



## What to do:

9. Close the bottle and seal with sellotape.

### Tip!

It will take several months for the material to break down into compost.

So don't worry if it looks like nothing is happening – it will!



## Next steps:

10. When it has broken down into compost, it looks like muck! Cut the bottle to 2–3cms above the level of the compost.

11. Plant a seed and watch it grow! You will need to water it – not too much mind!







© Changeworks 2015

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be produced in any material form (including photocopying or storing it in any medium by electronic means and whether or not transiently or incidentally to some other use of this publication) without the written permission of the copyright owners. An unauthorised act in relation to a copyright work may result in both a civil claim for damages and criminal prosecution.

Changeworks Resources for Life Ltd is a company registered as a charity and limited by guarantee. Charity No. SCO15144 and Company No. SC103904.  
Registered office: 36 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh EH6 5PY.

Call 0131 555 4010

Visit [www.changeworks.org.uk](http://www.changeworks.org.uk)

Email [wasteeducation@changeworks.org.uk](mailto:wasteeducation@changeworks.org.uk)

**Changeworks ~ Inspiring change for people and the environment**