



Government
of South Australia

Recycling Made Easy: Garden Organics



**SOME
THINGS
JUST
DON'T
MULCH!**

Zero Waste SA

Garden organics recycling is a great way to help our environment. The key to its success is ensuring that the right items are placed in the garden organics bin.

If contamination of kerbside collected garden organics was reduced, or better still eliminated, more of our waste could be made into composted mulch to:

- help create healthy gardens
- reduce the irrigation of plants by up to 70%
- reduce soil temperature by up to 30°C, which reduces water loss and plant stress
- lower extreme soil temperatures in summer, and thus alleviate plant stress
- reduce soil erosion
- enrich South Australia's poor soils
- reduce the waste that goes to landfill, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Garden organics are the most problematic material to manage in landfill as there are:

- greenhouse gases emitted
- significant odours
- vermin
- leachate (contamination of groundwater)
- subsidence (instability) in final landform

One contaminated bin ruins a whole truckload.

Your garden organics are turned into composted mulch to feed your garden.

Garden organics bins allow us to dispose of our garden waste with little effort or expense. Let's get it right!



Further information contact your Council or Zero Waste SA at www.zerowaste.com.au or call 8204 2051.

What happens to your garden organics?

- Picked up at kerbside by a dedicated garden organics compactor truck.
- Placed in a segregated and designated area at the recycling depot.
- Machine and manual removal of contamination.
- Garden organics are shredded, blended and transported to the composting site.
- Rows of organic material are composted and turned to aerate the rows, which exposes further contaminants on the surface. Surface contaminants are manually removed.
- Passed through density separators that blow air through the organics, separating light plastic film to the top of the wind tunnel and heavier organics to the bottom. The top layer of plastic is then vacuum extracted out and removed from the organics.
- Compost is sorted into commercial blend composted mulch, high-grade organic compost, and a highly-contaminated residual product. The highly-contaminated fraction is un-saleable to any landscape or agricultural market. This material is disposed of at cost to the recycling (composting) depot. Hence, lost revenue and cost of disposal are incurred by the recycler.
- Commercial blend and high-grade organic compost are used in home, public and commercial market gardens.

Please refer to the [Composting and mulching fact sheet](#) for information on how to create your own composted mulch at home. Please refer to the [Recycling made easy: Dry Recyclables fact sheet](#) for information on products such as glass, paper, metal and plastics.

Put in:



Lawn clippings



Garden prunings/twigs/leaves



Small branches

(max. 15cm diameter x 60cm long)

Don't put in:



Batteries



Household chemicals



Recyclables



Plastic bags/bin liners



Medical waste



Electronic items/appliances



Polystyrene or foam



Nappies



Metal



Plastic pots/seedling trays/hose



Building material or permapine



Dirt/rocks