

'Mahapach Yarok' ('Green Revolution') is an urban composting initiative operated by the Jerusalem Municipality (Sanitation Department) and community centers across the city.

Mahapach Yarok demonstrates a hands-on model of community responsibility that in cooperation with the city has achieved successful and sustainable outcomes within the urban environment.

Come and join a growing community of thousands of Jerusalem residents who separate their organic waste at home and turn it into rich compost, adding valuable nutrients back to the soil.

*Together we can create a better and greener environment and work towards a sustainable and healthy future.*



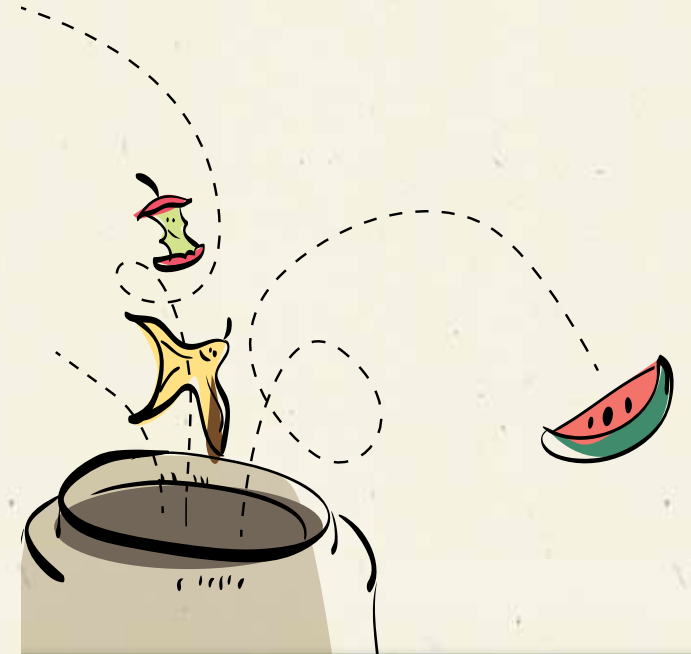
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מהפח ירוק קומפוסט ירושלמי



# The recycling revolution begins at home



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אגף התברואה

## Why is composting important?

Almost half the volume of an average household waste is organic kitchen waste (food scraps). This waste can be treated at home and turned into compost- a rich organic fertilizer, instead of being transported to a landfill and causing environmental damage, polluting the air, soil, groundwater and landscape.

Creating compost mimics the cycle that occurs in nature. Waste transforms from being a nuisance into becoming a valuable resource.

1. Household compost is an expression of a healthy relationship between the individual and the environment and proves that a modern lifestyle can be part of our natural environment.
2. Recycling organic waste provides a high quality fertilizer that can be used in private and public gardens in the neighborhood. The compost adds rich nutrients to the plants. Producing your own compost also saves money.



## How can I compost?

1. **Separate organic waste** intended for the composter from the rest of the refuse: leftover fruit and vegetables (large pieces should be cut up), egg shells, cooked vegetarian leftovers, coffee residue, tea bags, tissue, torn up egg cartons, small pieces of cardboard, paper, black and white newspapers and ashes.
2. **Do not put in the composter:** animal proteins (dairy, eggs, meat, fish, and chicken bones), cat and dog feces, pruned branches that have been treated with pesticides, glossy paper, colorful cardboard, plastic, glass, metal and batteries.
3. Place the separated waste in the composter and **cover with a dry material** so that the scraps are not exposed. Dry material can include: garden waste, dry leaves woodchips, sawdust (no glue) and grass (that hasn't been treated with pesticides)
4. Readymade compost and soil can be added sporadically to the composter-This will enrich the compost pile with necessary microorganisms

Watch the wonderful process unfold! Tiny microorganisms will decompose the food waste and gradually the pile will decrease in volume and turn into rich compost for your soil and plants!

## Important compost guidelines:

1. Maintain the balance between dry material and wet material – compost is made up of two main elements that maintain a balanced system: carbon and nitrogen. The rich in carbon dry material needs to be added in a slightly larger amount than the rich in nitrogen household waste.

2. Maintain moisture – it's important to maintain the right level of moisture during the entire process. The compost must be moist to the touch (like a wrung out sponge) but not water saturated. The level of moisture depends on the materials in the compost, weather, location and draining. It's important to water a dry pile (mainly during the summer) and dry material should be added to a wet pile (straw, sawdust, leaves).
3. Maintain ventilation - oxygen is required to compost properly. To add oxygen occasionally turn the compost heap, an act which will also help speed up the process.

## What do you do when the compost pile is full?

There are several options to choose from:

1. Place a second composter to separate into beside the full one, this will allow a rotation system between a resting pile and an active pile.
2. Open the hatch at the bottom of the composter and dig out the ready compost to allow space. It should look like dark decomposed soil.
3. Lift the composter carefully and place it beside the full pile, and start the process again, while letting the old pile rest and decompose (you can cover it with an old fabric, dry matter or cardboard).

**And last but not least- add the ready, rich compost to your garden and potted plants and enjoy nurturing the soil!**