

# FOGO FACTS # 3

WHERE  
FOGO  
GOES

## THE FOGO JOURNEY

FOGO waste will go from your kerbside bin to the Launceston Waste Centre's new purpose-built, organic facility where a carefully managed, aerobic process will turn it into nutrient-rich, weed-free compost.

The compost that is produced will be used on Council-maintained parks across Launceston and is a super food for plants. The Council is looking at ways to make the compost available to farmers and home gardeners too.

The environmental cost of transporting FOGO waste to Launceston is much less than the damage caused by burying FOGO in landfill. It's expected that FOGO will be processed in the North West in the future, as more councils in our region start FOGO collection services.

## THE COMPOSTING PROCESS

There are two main types of composting systems – (1) cold compost and (2) hot compost.

Cold compost is typically created by home gardeners either in compost bays, tumblers or compost bins. In these systems, the decomposing plant and animal matter is broken down by microbes, insects and worms. Not all organic matter can go in this kind of home compost system because the temperature of the compost rarely heats up enough to kill weed seeds or neutralise the bacteria in faeces, meat, fish or dairy products.

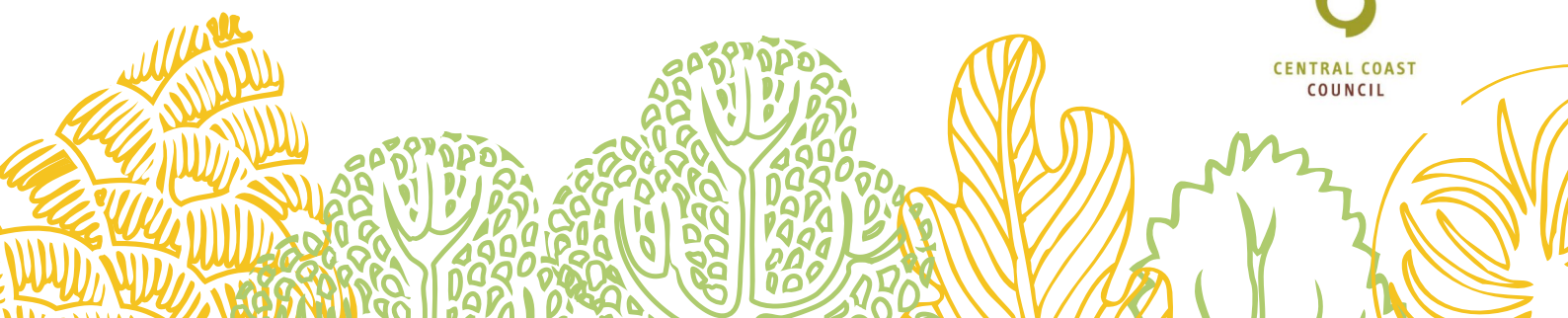
Hot compost is typically created by large-scale systems such as that used by the Launceston Waste Centre and the Dulverton Organics Compost facility. The temperature of the organic waste in these systems naturally heats to a level where pasteurisation occurs and so all kinds of organic matter can be safely added and neutralised.

Hot compost reaches temperatures up to 65C. The temperature is monitored and deliberately kept high throughout the composting process which can take around 16 weeks. During this time, the organic matter is mixed to allow air to enter the pile and water may also be added.

The Launceston Waste Centre follows the Australian Standard for compost (AS 4454 – 2012) to ensure the end result is weed and pathogen free, full of soil nutrients and smells like fresh soil – earthy and clean.



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## CONTAMINATION IN COMPOST

Contamination is any item which cannot breakdown during the compost process.

When contamination is placed in a FOGO bin it has the potential to spread throughout the organic material which means it cannot be safely used on gardens, farms or in Council parks. As you can imagine, glass and hard plastic items may break into small, sharp pieces, making the compost unsafe to use too.

Make sure everyone in your household knows what can and can't go in the FOGO bin. If something gets put in by mistake, carefully retrieve it and place it in the correct bin.

For more information on our FOGO service, contact Council on 6429 8900.



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