

Reducing Household Waste – What to do with shells and bones?

Mark – Spearwood Resident

The other one that I always wanted to find a use for was things like oyster shells or mussel shells, so we'll go and collect mussels or buy mussels and you might have a kilo of shells and what am I going to do with them so they just throw them straight in the bin. So we've got a pizza oven at home and a small fire pit that we use in winter and with a little bit of research I realise that shells whether they be oyster shells or mussels are made up of calcium so the animals take it from the ocean they turn it into a shell and as long as that shell is heated for long enough in an oven or a pizza oven or something like that, it breaks back down to calcium so you can take a bone like a large heavy dog bone and if it's heated for it's around about 180-200 degrees. You can do it in the oven but the smells not the best so I do it outside. If you just leave it in there for a few hours and come back you touch it and it will just turn to powder completely turn to powder so therefore all the shells and wastes and seafood stuff just goes into the pizza oven once you finish cooking on Friday, scrape it back out and it just turns to dust and that calcium which is something plants need a lot of and it goes straight into the compost bin. So some of the difficult items that people have a lot of leftover might be eggshells, so eggshells a perfect example you can just let them dry out and crush them up by hand and sure enough you'll have something small that you can put on your garden and a vegetable bed and it will stop snails and slugs from actually eating them because they don't like crawling across something that's sharp. The other thing you can do is put them into a blender wizz them up, I just use an old blender that we've got and turns into a powder and that's perfectly fine on the garden as it is.

For more information in this series of videos visit:

www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/WasteEducation