

Maccy Biochar

A Task Group of the Macclesfield Community Association Inc.

ABN 26 395 848 783

PO Box 535, Macclesfield SA 5153

Email: maccybiochar@adam.com.au

Website: <https://www.maccybiochar.com>

ACTION PLAN FOR BACKYARD SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL WARMING

by David Reynolds

1. Store and dry:

Leaves, twigs, fruit tree prunings, rose and shrub prunings or any non-treated wood available (dropped limbs, offcuts of woodwork projects etc) until you have as much as you can store. Wait for them to dry.

2. Separate twigs and leaves from the heavier branches and pieces of wood. When all the wood is dry proceed to step 3.

3. Dig a hole in the ground

the shape of a pudding basin and approx. 600mm circumference X 400mm deep (~2 feet wide, 15 inches deep) will do or make it larger if you wish.



Maccy Biochar is a community not-for-profit group set up to convert tree litter from local households, landowners and businesses to biochar and thereby capture carbon, reduce CO₂ emissions and improve local soils.

Maccy Biochar

4. Place in it

A small amount of your small dry prunings, shrub prunings, fruit tree prunings or other wood.

5. Start a small fire in the centre of the bottom of the hole.



REMINDER: Be sure to comply with all/any local regulations that may restrict or forbid the lighting of fires in the open in your location.

6. Be patient

Keep building the fire up higher, slowly but surely, without smoke but plenty of flames.

7. Add more small wood pieces

but as the fire builds in heat add larger pieces until the hole is filled up to, but not higher, than the ground surface.

Maccy Biochar is a community not-for-profit group set up to convert tree litter from local households, landowners and businesses to biochar and thereby capture carbon, reduce CO₂ emissions and improve local soils.

Maccy Biochar



8. When you see any smoke coming off the fire, throw a small handful of twigs on that area of the fire – this will burn off the methane gas.

9. When your fire-in-the-hole is full up and the flames have diminished, and some ash is just beginning to appear on the wood – FILL the hole with water, quenching the fire completely. NOTE: If you don't have enough water to completely quench the fire, then finish off by "snuffing" the remaining char with a sprinkling of dirt. Otherwise you may end up with all ash!
You now have biochar!

10. Leave your biochar to cool down, and the water to drain away and leave it to dry out a bit for a few days.

Maccy Biochar is a community not-for-profit group set up to convert tree litter from local households, landowners and businesses to biochar and thereby capture carbon, reduce CO₂ emissions and improve local soils.

Maccy Biochar

11. Now shovel out your biochar.

If your prunings, wood etc are now fully converted into biochar the wood pieces will crumble under your handgrip. If some of it is still solid, then put that piece aside for your next biochar burn.



12. If you want to enhance and speed up the effectiveness of your biochar in the soil, place it in the liquid from a worm "farm" for a few days; or use it as litter in your poultry house, where it will combine with the manure; or mix it with any manure, and leave mixed for a few days before using it in your garden. **Caution: Beware of using manure that is too fresh as it may have excessive concentrations of phosphorus that could "burn" your plants.**

Maccy Biochar is a community not-for-profit group set up to convert tree litter from local households, landowners and businesses to biochar and thereby capture carbon, reduce CO₂ emissions and improve local soils.