TOWN OF ACTON
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

Date: July 30, 2015

To: Steven Ledoux, Town Manager

From: Department of Public Works

Re: Transfer Station / Recycling Facility – Compost Bins – Fee Recommendation

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The Highway Department is putting together a new program to divert food and other compostable materials from our waste stream. One part of this program is to promote composting at home instead of disposing it at the Town facility. We have selected two types of home compost bins, a kitchen scrap bucket and compostable bags that can line the scrap bucket. We acquired the bins and the scrap bucket through a statewide contract. It is our goal to sell these items at a reduced rate which would cover the Town's cost to purchase them. We have listed the units and the proposing pricing.

- **Earth Machine Compost Bin** ***(Proposed Price $50)***

- **New Age Compost Bin** ***(Proposed Price $60)***

- **Kitchen Scrap Bucket** ***(Proposed Price $8)***

- **Compostable Bags - 2.5 gallon size** **(Proposed Price $4 per 30 bag roll)**

We are requesting that the Board approve these prices. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let me know.

The Earth Machine™

Home Composting Handbook
Manual de Compostaje Doméstico
Guide de compostage à domicile

Features of your Earth Machine™ backyard compost bin

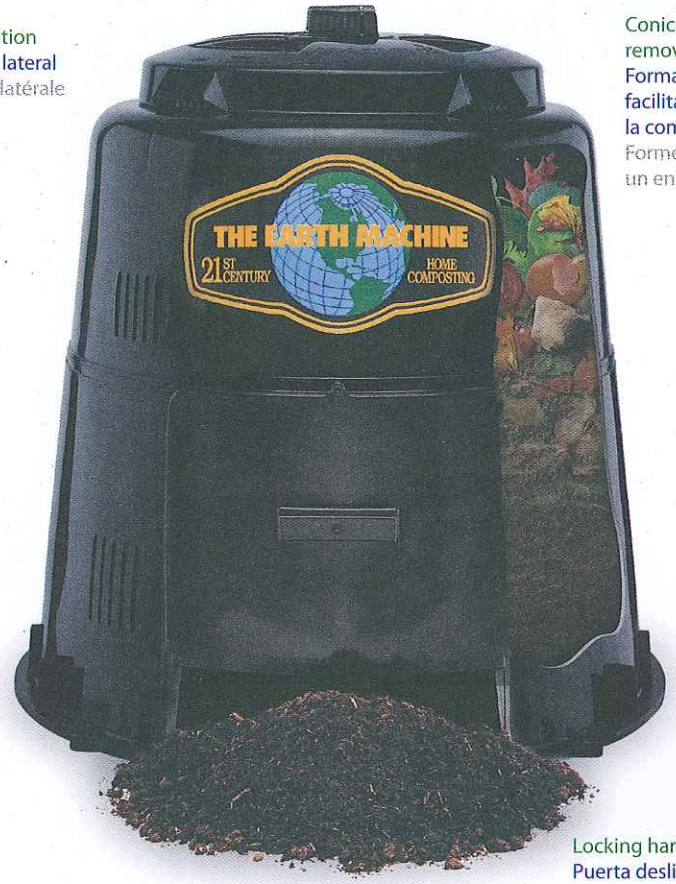
Características de su Compostera Doméstica "Earth Machine"

Caractéristiques de votre bac de compostage pour la cour arrière Earth Machine™

Adjustable ventilation
Ventilación regulable
Ventilation réglable

Twist locking pest-resistant lid
Tapa con cierre giratorio resistente a plagas
Couvercle verrouillable par rotation résistant à la vermine

Side Ventilation
Ventilación lateral
Ventilation latérale



Conical shape for easy removal
Forma cónica para facilitar la extracción la composta
Forme conique pour un enlèvement facile

Locking harvest door
Puerta deslizante delantera para cosechar la composta
Porte de récolte verrouillable

Four screw pegs to secure composter to ground
Cuatro pernos para asegurar la compostera al suelo
Piquets vissables permettant de fixer le composteur au sol

10 Year Warranty
Diez años de garantía
Garantie de 10 ans

Home Composting Handbook
Manual de Compostaje Domestico
Guide de compostage à domicile

So you've decided to try your hand at Home Composting. Congratulations! Sit back and relax, because composting is an amazingly easy way for you to make a difference. In less than ten minutes a week, you can:

>> Reduce the amount of garbage you generate by up to 80% – that's less tax dollars spent on collection and disposal

>> Create wheelbarrows full of valuable compost to add to your garden, lawn, trees, shrubs and house plants

>> Decrease your carbon footprint by reducing waste sent to landfills

What's not to like?

Así que ha decidido realizar el Compostaje Doméstico. Felicitaciones y relájese, ya que el compostaje es asombrosamente fácil. En menos de diez minutos por semana usted puede:

>> Reducir el 50% o más, de la basura que usted produce, lo que tiene positivas consecuencias ambientales, educativas y económicas.

>> La producción de composta es un valioso producto para añadir a su jardín, césped, árboles, arbustos, plantas interiores, verduras y hortalizas.

¿Qué es lo que no le gustá?

Vous avez décidé de vous mettre au compostage à domicile. Félicitations! Asseyez-vous et détendez-vous, parce que le compostage est une façon qui vous permet de facilement faire une différence. En moins de dix minutes par semaine, vous pouvez :

>> Réduire jusqu'à 80 % la quantité de déchets que vous générez – cela signifie moins de dollars en impôts que vous devez payer pour l'enlèvement et l'élimination

>> Créer des brouettes pleines de compost de grande valeur que vous pourrez ajouter à votre jardin, votre pelouse, vos arbres, vos arbustes et vos plantes de maison

>> Réduire votre empreinte de carbone en diminuant la quantité de déchets que vous envoyez aux sites d'enfouissement

Que de bonnes raisons pour faire du compost!

Inside this Book
Contenido del manual
Dans ce guide

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1

Twist and remove the lid.

Gire y remueva la tapa.

Le couvercle verrouillable par rotation.

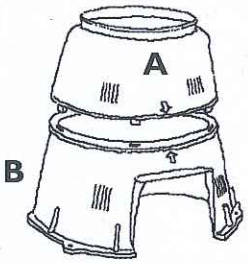
2

Place the bottom section (A) on the ground.
- Line up the arrows from A & B.
- Snap shut.
- Turn the Earth Machine upside down to view the tabs to make sure they are properly seated.

Coloque la sección inferior (A) sobre el terreno.
- Alinee las flechas de la A y B.
- Fije a presión
- Revise los seis pasadores plasticos para asegurarse de que están correctamente ubicados y embutidos.

Placez la partie du bas (A) sur le sol.
- Placez les flèches A et B l'une vis-à-vis de l'autre.
- Enclenchez le couvercle pour le fermer solidement.
- Vérifiez les 6 languettes pour vous assurer qu'elles sont bien fixées.

Items Included:
Four screws
One Top (A)
One Base (B)
One Lid
One Harvest door
One Handbook



Assembly Instructions
Instrucciones Para El Ensamblaje
Les instructions d'assemblage

3

Slide the harvest door in place, bending slightly if necessary.

Deslice la puerta en la parte frontal doblándola ligeramente si fuera necesario.

Faites glisser la porte de récolte en place, en la pliant légèrement si nécessaire.

4

Line up the arrow on the lid with the arrow on the top of the compost bin. Twist the lid to lock or control ventilation.

Ponga la tapa alineando la flecha de la tapa con la flecha en el tope de la compostera. Gire la tapa para cerrar o controlar la ventilación.

Placez les flèches sur le couvercle vis-à-vis des flèches sur la partie supérieure du bac de compostage. Faites tourner le couvercle pour le verrouiller ou en régler la ventilation.

5

Once you have determined the location (see next page), you can anchor the compost bin to the ground by screwing the four pegs into the ground at a slight angle. To maintain correct hole spacing, ensure the harvest door is in place before screwing down the pegs.

Una vez que haya determinado el lugar (ver la página siguiente), usted puede sujetar la compostera atornillando los cuatro pernos en el suelo.

Une fois que vous aurez déterminé l'emplacement du composteur (voir la page suivante), vous pouvez ancrer le bac de compostage en vissant les quatre piquets dans le sol à un petit angle. Afin de maintenir un bon espacement entre les trous, assurez-vous que la porte de récolte est en place avant de visser les piquets dans le sol.

Location of Your Compost Bin
Ubicación de la Compost Bin
Emplacement de votre bac de compostage

The most important factor for the location of the Earth Machine is CONVENIENCE. You will be adding material several times each week, even in winter, so set it up as close to your kitchen as possible.

Some first-time composters make the mistake of hiding it in the back of the yard, thinking it will smell or attract pests, and then find it inconvenient. This handbook will show you how to compost easily and trouble-free, so don't hide your compost bin – be proud of it!

Once you have chosen your location, just set your Earth Machine in the desired location and secure it with the four plastic screw pegs. You are now ready to compost.

Lo más importante para la elección del lugar en el cual ubicar su compostera es el que usted considere más CÓMODO, para que pueda añadir material permanentemente, en todas las estaciones del año, es aconsejable ubicarla lo más cercana posible a su cocina.

Algunos que compostan por primera vez cometen el error de ocultarla en la parte posterior del patio o del jardín, pensando que producirá mal olor. No esconda su compostera - siéntase orgulloso de ella. Este manual le demostrará que compostar es fácil, sólo debe seguir las instrucciones.

Una vez que haya escogido la ubicación, instálela y asegúrela con los cuatro pernos plásticos. Ahora usted está listo para compostar.

Lorsque vous choisissez l'emplacement de votre Earth Machine, pensez d'abord à un endroit PRATIQUE. Vous ajouterez de la matière plusieurs fois par semaine, même en hiver, donc pensez à l'installer aussi près de votre cuisine que possible.

Certains composteurs novices font l'erreur de le cacher à l'arrière de la cour, pensant qu'il dégagera des odeurs ou attirera la vermine, et s'aperçoivent que cela n'est pas pratique. Ce guide vous montrera comment composter facilement et sans problème, alors ne cachez pas votre bac de compostage – soyez-en fier.

Lorsque vous aurez choisi l'emplacement, il vous suffit de placer votre Earth Machine à l'endroit désiré et à le fixer à l'aide des quatre piquets vissables. Vous êtes maintenant prêts à composter

In the Kitchen | En La Cocina | Dans la cuisine

You will need a pail with a lid, preferably about 2 gallons (8 litres), either a commercial unit or a reused food pail. The Norseman Environmental Kitchen Collector offers a cupboard door mounting option and an oval shape to facilitate the emptying of plates.

The key is a tight seal on the lid to keep fruit flies away, and a size that allows you to easily empty kitchen scraps into.

To keep material from sticking to the bottom and sides, line the pail with a sheet of newspaper or paper towel. When you empty the pail into your compost bin every couple of days, it will all slide cleanly out.

Then give it a quick rinse and re-line it. Newspaper or paper towel compost fine.

Es aconsejable para juntar los residuos compostables en su cocina contar con un recipiente que puede ser un balde con tapa, de unos 8 litros. Pue de ser una unidad comercial tal como el Colector de Cocina que ofrece Norseman Plastics, se trata de un recipiente que se puede instalar en la puerta de su lavaplatos, tiene una moldura ovalada que facilita el vaciado de los residuos que va a incorporar a su compostera.

Es importante que sea un recipiente con tapa para que no atraiga moscas y que su diseño facilite el vaciado de los desechos de la cocina.

Para que los desechos no se peguen en el fondo ni en los costados, se recomienda poner en el fondo o forrar el balde con papel absorbente. Cuando usted vacíe el balde en su compostera, todo se deslizará con mayor facilidad. Luego lávelo y fórrelo nuevamente. El papel se compostará fácilmente.

Vous aurez besoin d'un seau avec un couvercle, de préférence de 2 gallons (8 litres), soit un appareil commercial ou un seau pour aliments que vous réutilisez. Le collecteur de déchets de cuisine écologique Norseman se fixe sur la porte de l'armoire et sa forme ovale permet d'y vider les assiettes plus facilement.

Le facteur le plus important est le joint d'étanchéité du couvercle qui doit empêcher les drosophiles (mouches du vinaigre) d'entrer, et qui vous permet de facilement y vider les déchets de cuisine.

Afin d'empêcher les matières de coller au fond et sur les côtés, doublez le seau d'une feuille de papier journal ou d'une serviette de papier. Lorsque vous videz le seau dans votre bac de compostage tous les deux jours environ, tout le contenu en glissera facilement.

Ensuite, rincez-le et doublez-le de nouveau. Le papier journal et les serviettes de papier se compostent très bien.

What to Compost
¿QUÉ COMPOSTAR?
Quoi composter

Your Earth Machine™ Compost Bin will work best if it is fed a diet of green (nitrogen-rich) and brown (carbon-rich) materials. Check out the list of kitchen and yard waste "greens" and "browns" that will keep your compost bin happy.

Su compostera funcionará mejor si es "alimentada" con una dieta de desechos verdes (ricos en nitrógeno) y desechos secos (ricos en carbono). Verifique la lista de desechos del jardín y cocina "verdes" y "secos" que mantendrán a su compostera feliz.

Votre bac de compostage Earth Machine™ fonctionnera mieux si vous l'alimentez d'un régime de matière verte (riche en azote) et de matière brune (riche en carbone). Consultez la liste de déchets de cuisine et de jardin « verts » et « bruns » qui rendront votre bac de compostage heureux.

Kitchen Greens
Fruit scraps, vegetable scraps, Houseplant cuttings, coffee grounds, rice & pasta, egg shells and tea bags

Desechos Verdes de Cocina
Restos de frutas y verduras, Recortes de plantas interiores, Granos de café molido, arroz y pasta cáscaras de huevos, bolsas de té, hierbamate

Matière verte de la cuisine
Restes de fruits, restes de légumes, Retailles de plantes de maison, marc de café, riz et pâtes, coquilles d'œufs et sachets de thé

Kitchen Browns
Coffee filters, stale bread, paper napkins & towels, dryer lint and hair

Desechos Secos de Cocina
Filtros de café, pan añejo, Toallas y servilletas de papel absorbente, pelusas de secador, Pelo, Cartón picado

Matière brune de la cuisine
Filtres à café, pain sec, serviettes de papier, charpie du sèche-linge et cheveux

Yard Greens
Flowers, Vegetables, Plant trimmings, Hedge clippings, Grass (small amounts)

Desechos Verdes del jardín
Hojas secas, flores, vegetales, recortes de plantas, Podas pequeñas, hierba (cantidades pequeñas), pasto deshidratado

Matière verte du jardin
Fleurs, Légumes, Retailles de plantes, Retailles de haie, Retailles de gazon (petites quantités)

Yard Browns
Leaves
Straw or hay
Small twigs/chips
Dried grass and weeds

Desechos Secos del jardín
Hojas, Ramitas pequeñas, astillas, Hierba seca y malas hierbas, Aserrín

Matière brune du jardin
Feuilles, Paille ou foin, Petites branches et copeaux, Retailles de gazon et mauvaises herbes séchées

Don't Compost
Meat, fish, bones, dairy products, oils or fats, sauces, ashes, pet waste, diseased plants or mature weeds with seeds.

No Compostar
Carne, pescado, huesos, productos lácteos, aceites o grasa, salsa, ceniza de asado, heces de mascotas, plantas enfermas o maleza

Ne pas composter
La viande, le poisson, les produits laitiers, les huiles, les gras, les cendres, les déjections d'animaux, les plantes malades ou les mauvaises herbes matures avec des graines.

How to Compost
¿CÓMO COMPOSTAR?
Comment composter

Composting is easy – it happens on its own. However, there are a few things you can do to speed up the composting process. Just follow these four steps:

Compostar es fácil y natural. Sin embargo existen algunas cosas que usted puede hacer para acelerar el proceso de compostaje. Simplemente siga estos cuatro pasos.

Composter est facile – cela se fait sans effort. Cependant, il y a certaines choses que vous pouvez faire pour accélérer le processus de compostage. Vous n'avez qu'à suivre ces quatre étapes :

1) CHOP: It helps to chop up larger items like watermelon rinds or corn cobs before putting them in your kitchen scrap pail.

1) DESMENUZAR: El proceso puede ser más rápido si usted pica los residuos de mayor tamaño tales como cáscara de sandia o maíz antes de ponerlos dentro del balde de la cocina.

1) HACHEZ : Hachez les plus gros morceaux tels que la peau de melon d'eau et les rafles d'épis de maïs avant de les jeter dans votre seau de déchets de cuisine.

2) EMPTY: Once your kitchen scrap pail is full, take it to your Earth Machine™ and tip it into your unit.

2) VACIAR: Una vez que su balde de cocina esté lleno llévelo a su compostera y vacíelo dentro de ella.

2) VIDEZ : Lorsque votre seau de déchets de cuisine est plein, apportez-le à votre Earth Machine™ et versez-le dans votre appareil.

3) STIR: Mix the new material into the existing pile using a compost turner, pitchfork or other garden tool. This also adds oxygen, a key component to successful composting.

3) Ventilar: Mezcle los desechos nuevos con los ya existentes utilizando un bastón aireador, una horqueta o cualquier otra herramienta de jardín. Esto añade oxigeno, un componente clave para el éxito del proceso de compostaje

3) REMUEZ : Mélangez la nouvelle matière dans la pile existante à l'aide d'un retourneur de compost, d'une fourche ou d'un autre outil de jardin. Cela ajoute aussi de l'oxygène, une composante clé pour réussir le compostage.

4) COVER: Cover your food waste with a handful of old leaves, other dried yard waste or soil. This will add carbon and reduce the chance of odors and fruit flies. Then put the lid back on and let it "cook".

4) CUBRIR: Cubra SIEMPRE sus desechos de cocina con un manojo de hojas secas u otros desechos secos del jardín. Esto agregará carbono y reducirá la posibilidad de malos olores y mosquitos.

4) COUVREZ : Couvrez les déchets de cuisine d'une poignée de vieilles feuilles, d'autres déchets de jardin séchés ou de terre. Cela ajoutera du carbone et réduira la possibilité d'odeurs et de drosophiles. Puis remettez le couvercle en place et laissez « mijoter ».

The Four Seasons of Composting
Las Cuatro Estaciones de Compostaje
Les quatre saisons du compostage

Spring: Stir well and add some soil to kick-start your compost. Dig out any finished compost from the bottom to use in your lawn or garden.

Primavera: Revuelva y agregue un poco de hojas secas para iniciar su compostera. Extraiga la composta lista del fondo para que lo utilice en su césped o jardín.

Printemps : Remuez bien et ajoutez de la terre pour bien démarrer votre compost. Retirez tout le compost terminé dans le bas et utilisez-le sur votre pelouse ou dans votre jardin.

Summer: Keep your compost bin humming by stirring it frequently and covering fresh material with leaves. If the compost looks dry, add some water.

Varano: Mantenga su compostera aireándola con frecuencia, al menos una vez a la semana, y cubriendo SIEMPRE los desechos frescos con material seco.

Été : Faites travailler votre bac de compostage de manière optimale en le remuant fréquemment et en le couvrant la matière fraiche de feuilles. Si le compost semble sec, ajoutez de l'eau.

Winter: With the colder temperatures, your compost will decompose slower. Don't worry, let it fill up. Once spring comes it will all decompose rapidly.

Invierno: Con la temperatura más baja la descomposición será más lenta. No se preocupe, siga utilizándola. Una vez que la primavera llegue, su descomposición se acelerará.

Hiver: Avec les températures plus froides, votre compost se décomposera plus lentement. Ne vous en souciez pas et laissez-le se remplir. Une fois le printemps arrivé, le tout se décomposera rapidement.

Fall: Harvest Time! Clean out your compost and empty the finished material into your garden. If possible, save some leaves to add to the compost bin during the year.

Otoño: ¡Tiempo de cosecha! Remueva su composta y transporte el abono a su jardín. (Antes de usar en el jardín, deje pasar 2 ó 3 semanas para que la composta madure). Guarde hojas secas para agregar a la compostera durante el resto del año.

Automne : C'est le temps de la récolte! Videz votre compost et ajoutez la matière terminée à votre jardin. Si possible, gardez quelques feuilles à ajouter au bac de compostage tout au long de l'année.

Harvesting | Cosecha | La récolte

After a few months, your kitchen scraps near the bottom of your Earth Machine™ Compost Bin will have decomposed to a point where you cannot identify the materials you added, and will look much like soil. There are two ways of harvesting this finished compost, one when you just want a few shovels of compost, and another when you want as much finished compost as possible, or to make maximum space for fresh scraps.

Después de algunos meses, los residuos de su cocina que están cercanos al fondo de su compostera se habrán escompuesto hasta el punto que usted no podrá identificarlos, parecerán tierra. Hay dos maneras de cosechar la composta, uno por la puerta inferior, cuando usted desea algunas paladas de composta y otra levantando la compostera si desea cocechar todo el compost que está listo, o para crear el máximo de espacio para desechos nuevos.

Après quelques mois, vos déchets de cuisine dans le bas de votre bac de compostage Earth Machine™ se seront décomposés au point où vous ne pourrez plus identifier la matière que vous avez ajoutée, et elle ressemblera à de la terre. Il existe deux façons de récolter le compost terminé, l'une lorsque vous ne voulez que quelques pelletées de compost et l'autre lorsque vous désirez autant de compost terminé que possible, ou que vous désirez faire le plus de place possible pour ajouter de nouveaux déchets.

Harvesting Small Amounts

Your Earth Machine™ Compost Bin comes with a door at the bottom for quick access to finished compost. Just lift the door and dig the material out of the bottom. What could be simpler?

Accessing The Pile

There are times when you want to access the entire pile. All you do is:

- Unscrew the four pegs
- Lift the compost bin up and off the pile, and set it aside
- Place any unfinished compost in a container or pile
- Load the finished compost into a wheelbarrow
- Replace your bin in the original footprint and screw it down
- Put the unfinished compost back in the compost bin
- Use a compost screen to help separate the unfinished material from the finished compost.

Cosechando Pequeñas Cantidades

Su compostera Earth Machine viene con una puerta en la parte inferior para acceder rápidamente la composta acumulada en el fondo. Simplemente levante la puerta y extraiga la composta del fondo.

Acceso a la Pila

Existirán períodos en los cuales usted deseará acceder a toda la pila para obtener una mayor cantidad de compost. Es este caso usted debe:

- Destornillar los cuatro pernos
- Levantar la compostera y ponerla a un costado. No necesita desarmarla
- Separar la composta que ya está lista del que está en proceso
- Dejar madurar la composta lista por unas dos semanas para luego utilizarla
- Reubicar su compostera en el lugar original y volver a instalarla
- Reintegrar la composta que aún no está listo dentro de la compostera
- Usted puede usar un harnero para ayudarse a separar los desechos que aún están en proceso

Récolter de petites quantités

Votre bac de compostage Earth Machine™ est muni d'une porte de récolte dans le bas pour vous permettre d'avoir un accès rapide au compost terminé. Il suffit de relever la porte et de sortir la matière se trouvant au fond par petites pelletées. Quoi de plus simple?

Comment avoir accès à la pile

Il y aura des moments où vous voudrez avoir accès à la pile entière. Tout ce que vous avez à faire est de :

- Dévisser vos piquets
- Soulever le bac de compostage de sur la pile et le mettre de côté
- Placer tout le compost non terminé dans un contenant ou dans une pile
- Charger le compost terminé dans une brouette
- Remettre votre bac à l'endroit original et le visser en place
- Remettre le compost non terminé dans le bac de compostage
- Utiliser un tamis de compostage pour séparer la matière non terminée du compost terminé.

Using Compost | Usando La Composta | Comment utiliser le compost

Compost is a nutrient-rich soil amendment, created by the natural decomposition of kitchen and yard waste by microbes, worms and other organisms. When mixed with your soil, it will revitalize it, make it healthier and more productive, and increase moisture retention.

La composta es un abono rico en nutrientes que reconstituye el terreno a través de la descomposición natural de residuos de cocina y jardín, por intermedio de microorganismos, lombrices, y otros organismos. Mezclado con su tierra, la revitalizará, la hará más saludable y productiva e incrementará su capacidad para retener humedad.

Le compost est un amendement riche en nutriments, créé par la décomposition naturelle des déchets de cuisine et de jardin grâce à l'action des microbes, des vers et d'autres organismes. Lorsqu'il est mélangé à votre terre, il la revitalise, la rend plus en santé et plus productive, et en augmente la capacité de rétention.

In Your Garden

Spread compost in your vegetable or flower garden in spring or fall, and work it into the soil.

Una vez que haya secado la composta de la compostera, déjelo dentro de un saco o al aire libre por 2 ó 3 semanas para que madure. La composta mejora la estructura del suelo, permitiendo que sus plantas crezcan fuertes y sanas.

Dans votre jardin: Épandez le compost dans votre jardin de légumes ou de fleurs au printemps ou à l'automne et mélangez-le à la terre.

On Your Lawn

Top-dress your lawn with compost in the spring or fall. This will help maintain healthy soil structure and build your topsoil. It helps to screen the compost first so it spreads easily.

En Su Césped

Cubra su césped con composta en la primavera o el otoño. Ayuda si primero se rastrilla la composta para extenderlo fácilmente.

Sur votre pelouse: Épandez du compost sur votre pelouse au printemps ou à l'automne. Cela aidera à maintenir une structure de sol en santé et à bâtir un bon terreau. Tamiser le compost d'abord le rend plus facile à épandre.

Around Trees and Shrubs

Spreading compost around the base of trees or shrubs is another easy way to put your compost to use. Your trees and shrubs will love you for it.

Alrededor de Flores, Árboles y Arbustos

Entierre la composta en la taza de los árboles o arbustos, esta es otra forma fácil de usar su composta, sus árboles y arbustos se lo agradecerán.

Autour des arbres et des arbustes

Épandre du compost autour de la base des arbres et des arbustes est une autre façon facile d'utiliser votre compost. Vos arbres et arbustes vous en seront reconnaissants.

Will my compost smell? | ¿La composta emanará mal olor? | Mon compost sentira-t-il?

Properly running compost bins should not give off any unpleasant odors – if anything, they should be almost sweet-smelling. If you do notice any unpleasant odors, mix it well with a compost turner or pitchfork to get more air into the pile, and add some more "browns" (e.g. leaves) to dry it out. Don't add piles of grass clippings all at once, as they will give off an ammonia-like smell (see page 15 for tips on managing grass clippings). Also, make sure not to put any meat or dairy products in your compost bin.

Las composteras que funcionen adecuadamente no emitirán olores desagradables – al contrario deberían emitir un olor agradable. Si usted percibe olores desagradables, mézclelo bien con un bastón aireador o una horqueta para oxigenar más la pila y agregue mas hojas secas para reducir la humedad. No agregue pilas de pasto cortado todo a la vez, ya que emitirá un olor parecido al amoníaco, (ver página 15 para más sugerencias de cómo manejar el pasto cortado). Asegúrese también de no incluir ninguna clase de carne ni productos lácteos dentro de su compostera.

Les bacs de compostage bien entretenus ne devraient pas dégager d'odeurs désagréables – en fait, ils devraient presque avoir une odeur agréable. Si vous remarquez des odeurs désagréables, mélangez-le bien à l'aide d'un retourneur de compost ou d'une fourche afin de faire entrer davantage d'air dans la pile et ajoutez-y de la manière brune (p. ex., des feuilles) pour l'assécher. N'ajoutez pas de piles de retailles de gazon en grosses quantités, car elles dégageront une odeur d'ammoniac (voir la page 15 pour les conseils sur la façon de gérer les retailles de gazon). Aussi, assurez-vous de ne pas placer de viande ni de produits laitiers dans votre bac de compostage.

How long before I get compost? | ¿Cuánto tiempo demorara en obtener la composta? | Combien de temps faut-il avant d'obtenir du compost?

Most people find that they can harvest finished compost from the bottom of their pile every 6 months or so. However, if you have a good mix of "greens" and "browns", stir thoroughly and frequently, and keep it from getting too wet or dry, you will find you an "cook" a batch of compost in as little as 6 weeks.

La mayoría de gente encuentra que puede cosechar la composta ya lista del fondo de la pila cada 6 meses más o menos. Sin embargo si usted tiene una buena cantidad de desechos verdes y desechos secos, y los mezcla frecuentemente, y los mantiene con la humedad adecuada, ni muy secos ni muy húmedos, podría obtener una cosecha de composta en tan sólo unos 3 meses.

La plupart des gens constatent qu'ils peuvent récolter du compost terminé du bas de leur pile tous les 6 mois environ. Cependant, si vous avez un bon mélange de matière verte et brune, remuez la pile au complet et fréquemment et vous assurez qu'elle n'est ni trop sèche ni trop mouillée, vous constaterez que vous pouvez préparer une « fournée » de compost en aussi peu que 6 semaines.

What do I do to get rid of fruit flies? | ¿Qué hago para deshacerme de los mosquitos? | Comment puis-je me débarrasser des drosophiles?

During the summer, you may be greeted by fruit flies when you open your kitchen pail or compost bin. To keep them at bay in the kitchen, make sure to close the lid on your kitchen pail tightly and empty your pail frequently. At your compost bin, add leaves or a thin layer of soil each time you add fresh material.

Durante el verano, pueden aparecer mosquitos al abrir el balde de la cocina o la compostera. Para controlar esta situación mantenga bien tapado el balde y vacíelo con frecuencia dentro de su compostera. Agregue hojas secas u otro material seco tal como aserrín, servilletas de papel o cartón picado, cada vez que incorpore desechos nuevos.

Pendant l'été, vous pourriez être accueilli par les drosophiles lorsque vous ouvrez votre seau de cuisine ou votre bac de compostage. Afin de les éliminer de votre cuisine, assurez-vous que le couvercle de votre seau de cuisine est fermé de manière très ajustée et videz votre seau fréquemment. Dans le cas de votre bac de compostage, ajoutez des feuilles ou une mince couche de terre chaque fois que vous ajoutez de la nouvelle matière.

What can I do to keep raccoons, squirrels, rodents and dogs out of my compost bin? | ¿Que puedo hacer para mantener mapaches, ardillas , roedores y perros alejados de la compostera? | Comment puis-je empêcher les ratons laveurs, les écureuils, les rongeurs et les chiens d'avoir accès à mon bac de compostage?

Occasionally, an eager pest will decide to take a liking to your compost bin, so here are a few things to keep those critters away. If the problem persists, you can line the bottom of the compost bin with a layer of chicken wire.

> Avoid all food scraps with meat, dairy, oil or fat
> Bury fresh material in the compost pile
> Keep the door fastened by placing a twist tie through the matching holes in the door and composter
> Place bricks or flat stones around the base of the composter
> Add dog hair to the compost

Ocasionalmente algún animal o insecto se acercara a su composta, así que a continuación le damos algunos consejos para mantenerlos alejados. Si el problema persiste, puede cercar el contendor con alambre de gallinero.

> Evite todos los desperdicios de carnes, lácteos, aceites o grasas.
> Entierre material fresco en la composta.
> Mantenga la puera asegurada colocando un palo a través de los agujeros de la puerta.
> Coloque ladrillos o piedras alrededor de la base de la compostera.
> Agregue pelo de perro a la composta

Occasionnellement, un animal indésirable sera attiré par votre bac de compostage, alors voici quelques trucs pour les en éloigner. Si le problème persiste, vous pouvez placer du grillage à mailles fines dans le bas du bac de compostage.

> Évitez tous les déchets de cuisine contenant de la viande, des produits laitiers, de l'huile ou du gras.
> Enfouissez la nouvelle matière dans la pile de compost
> Gardez la porte fermée en plaçant un bâton dans les trous de la porte et du composteur
> Placez des briques ou des roches plates autour de la base du composteur
> Ajoutez du poil de chien au compost

My composter fills up too quickly. What should I do? | ¿Mi compostera se llena rápidamente, qué puedo hacer? | Mon composteur se remplit trop vite. Que dois-je faire?

Use your Earth Machine™ primarily for kitchen waste, as yard waste will fill it up in a hurry. If you generate too much kitchen waste for one compost bin, consider getting a second one.

Use su Earth Machine principalmente para desechos de cocina, ya que los desechos del jardín la llenarán rápidamente. Si usted produce demasiados desechos de cocina, considere obtener otra.

Utilisez votre Earth Machine™ principalement pour les déchets de cuisine, puisque les déchets de jardin le rempliront rapidement. Si vous générez trop de déchets de cuisine pour un seul bac de compostage, songez à vous en procurer un deuxième.

How should I handle yard waste? | ¿Cómo debo manejar los desechos del jardín? | Comment devrais-je traiter les déchets de jardin?

Consider buying or making a large yard waste compost bin, and keep it close to your Earth Machine™ so you have a ready source of cover material. Remember to keep some bags of leaves aside for use throughout the year.

Considere comprar o construir una compostera grande para el jardín y manténgala cerca de su Earth Machine así usted tiene una fuente de residuos secos de reserva. Recuerde mantener siempre aparte algunas bolsas llenas de hojas secas para utilizarlas durante el año.

Pensez à acheter ou à fabriquer un grand bac de compostage et placez-le près de votre Earth Machine™ afin d'avoir une source de matériau de couverture à portée de la main. Souvenez-vous de mettre quelques sacs de feuilles de côté que vous pourrez utiliser tout au long de l'année.

How moist should my compost pile be? | ¿Cuán húmeda debería estar la pila de mi compostera? | Quel devrait être le degré d'humidité de ma pile de compost?

The rule of thumb is to keep the material as moist as a wrung-out sponge. In arid climates, this means you will have to periodically add water to the pile, or make a point of adding wet materials to the kitchen pail (e.g. leftover coffee). In rainy areas or seasons, you may need to add dry leaves, aerate the pile with a pitchfork or compost turner, or leave the lid of compost off on sunny days.

La regla de oro es mantener los ingredientes tan húmedos como una esponja exprimida. En climas áridos significa que usted deberá agregar agua a la pila periódicamente, o tener el hábito de agregar desechos húmedos al balde de la cocina (ej. restos de café). En temporadas de lluvia, es posible que tenga que añadir hojas secas, oxigenar la pila con una horqueta, un bastón aireador o destapar la compostera en días soleados.

La règle empirique est de maintenir la matière aussi humide qu'une éponge que l'on vient de tordre. Dans les climats arides, cela veut dire que vous devez ajouter de l'eau à la pile régulièrement, ou ajouter de la matière mouillée au seau de la cuisine (p. ex., des restes de café). Dans les zones pluvieuses ou pendant les saisons pluvieuses, vous pourriez devoir ajouter des feuilles séchées, aérer la pile à l'aide d'une fourche ou d'un retourneur de compost, ou retirer le couvercle du composteur lors des journées ensoleillées.

Is there a way to make winter composting in the snowbelt easier? | ¿Hay manera de hacer composta en invierno fácilmente? | Comment puis-je rendre le compostage plus facile l'hiver si j'habite dans une région où il y a de fortes chutes de neige?

Hopefully, your Earth Machine™ Compost Bin is located close to your back door so you don't have to shovel a long path to it. If not, leave an old garbage can next to the back door and empty your kitchen pail directly into it. Once spring comes you can just add it to your compost bin, together with some leaves or other browns.

Idealmente, su Earth Machine contenedor para composta deberá ser colocado cerca de su puerta al jardín así que no tendrá que quitar mucha nieve para llegar a él. De no ser así, deje un bote de basura viejo enseguida de su puerta trasera y vacíe sus desperdicios de la cocina ahí. Cuando llegue la primavera podrá agregar el contendido a su composta junto con algunas hojas secas.

Idéalement, vous aurez placé votre Earth Machine™ près de votre porte arrière afin de ne pas avoir à déneiger un long corridor pour vous y rendre. Si ce n'est pas le cas, placez une vieille poubelle à côté de la porte arrière et videz votre seau de cuisine directement dedans. Une fois le printemps arrivé, vous pourrez en ajouter le contenu à votre bac de compostage, avec des feuilles ou une autre matière brune.

Grasscycling | Reciclando Césped | Herbicyclage

Why rake, bag & landfill your grass clippings? | ¿Por qué rastrillar, embolsar y botar en un vertedero los cortes de cèsped? | Pourquoi racler, faire des sacs et envoyer vos retailles de gazon à l'enfouissement?

Some people still rake, bag and landfill their grass clippings, just because it's what they've always done, or because they think clippings cause thatch. The truth, as most lawn care professionals will tell you, is that grass clippings do not cause thatch, and in fact help keep your lawn healthy. So start GRASSCYCLING – just let you clippings lie where they fall.

Algunas personas todavía rastrillan, embolsan y eliminan en la basura sus cortes de césped simplemente porque es algo que siempre han hecho, o por que piensan que los recortes se convierten en paja. La verdad es que los recortes de pasto ayudan a nutrir la tierra y a embellecer el césped. Por lo tanto empiece a reciclar – simplemente deje los recortes en su lugar o mézclelo con las hojas e intégrelos a la compostera.

Certaines personnes continuent de racler leurs retailles de gazon, d'en faire des sacs et de les envoyer à l'enfouissement simplement parce que c'est ce qu'elles ont toujours fait, ou parce qu'elles croient que ces retailles peuvent former des accumulations. La vérité, comme vous le diront la plupart des professionnels d'entretien de la pelouse, c'est que les retailles de gazon ne causent pas d'accumulations de gazon, et qu'elles peuvent en fait être bénéfiques à votre pelouse. Alors, commencez à pratiquer l'HERBICYCLAGE – laissez simplement vos retailles là où elles sont.

Grasscycling TIPS

> Keep your mower blades sharp.
> Don't cut too short – never shorter than 7 cm (2.5 inches).
> Cut frequently – never more than one-third of the grass blade at a time, so cut as soon as the lawn is about 10 cm high (4 inches).
> Don't over-fertilize or over-water your lawn – that will just make it grow faster and create more work. Grasscycling plus occasional top-dressing with compost is likely all the fertilizing you need.

CONSEJOS

> Mantenga las cuchillas de su cortadora de pasto bien afiladas.
> No corte muy raso – nunca corte a menos de 7 cm. (2.5 pulgadas).
> Corte con frecuencia – nunca más de un tercio del tamaño de la hoja de pasto a la vez, no lo deje crecer más de 10 cm
> No utilice demasiado fertilizante ni riegue muy a menudo – ello lo hará crecer más rápido y le dará más trabajo. Es probable que el reciclaje del pasto y la cobertura con compost sea todo el fertilizante que necesite.

CONSEILS

> Maintenez les lames de votre tondeuse bien aiguisées.
> Ne tondez pas la pelouse trop rase – jamais moins de 7 cm (2,5 po).
> Tondez la pelouse fréquemment – jamais plus d'un tiers du brin d'herbe à la fois, donc tondez la pelouse dès qu'elle atteint 10 cm (4 po).
> Ne fertilisez pas trop et n'arrosez pas trop votre pelouse – cela ne fera que l'encourager à pousser plus vite et vous donnera davantage de travail. L'herbicylage et l'épandage occasionnel de compost en surface devraient suffire à titre de fertilisation.

BENEFITS

> Less work for you – less raking and carrying bags to the curb.
> Free fertilizer for your lawn.
> Less tax dollars on collection and landfilling.

If you still find too many clumps of cut grass for your liking, consider a mulching mower, or replace your current blade with a mulching blade.

BENEFICIOS

> Menos trabajo para usted – menos rastrillaje y acarreo de bolsas a la calle.
> Fertilizante gratis para su pasto.
> Menos cantidad de basura enviada a los vertederos.

Si es que usted todavía encuentra bolsas de césped cortado, y no le agrada, considere un cortacésped que amantille o remplace las cuchillas con cuchillas que amantillen.

AVANTAGES

> Moins de travail pour vous – moins de raclage et moins de sacs à transporter jusqu'au trottoir.
> De l'engrais gratuit pour votre pelouse.
> Moins de dollars en impôts que vous devez payer pour l'enlèvement et l'élimination.

Si vous trouvez qu'il y a toujours trop de mottes de retailles de gazon à votre goût, songez à vous procurer une tondeuse hacheuse ou remplacez votre lame actuelle par une lame hacheuse.

The Big Picture
EL PANORAMA
Le mot de la fin

Glad to have you composting! By composting and recycling, you can reduce the amount of garbage you generate by up to 80%. It quickly becomes routine and makes a big difference.

The added bonus is that the compost you generate will make your garden and lawn healthier, and less dependent on chemicals, fertilizers and watering.

¡Nos alegramos que se encuentre compostando! A través del reciclado y compostaje, usted puede reducir hasta en un 80% la cantidad de basura. Compostar se convierte rápidamente en una rutina y hace una gran diferencia.

El beneficio añadido es que la composta que usted genera hará más saludable su césped y jardín, y menos dependiente de químicos, fertilizantes y agua.

Nos sommes heureux que vous ayez décidé de composter! En compostant et en recyclant, vous pouvez réduire de 80 % la quantité de déchets que vous générez. Cela devient rapidement une habitude qui fait une différence importante.

En prime, le compost que vous générerez rendra votre jardin et votre pelouse plus en santé et moins dépendants des autres produits chimiques, des engrais et de l'arrosage.

Congratulations
¡Felicidades!
Félicitations

You are one of over 2 million users of Earth Machine™ Backyard Compost Bins. A family using an Earth Machine™ can divert over 500 pounds of kitchen scraps and yard waste a year. That's over one billion pounds of garbage transformed into valuable compost for your gardens each and every year!

¡Usted es uno de los más de 2 millones de usuarios de la Compostera Earth Machine. Una familia usando una Earth Machine puede transformar unos 773 kg de residuos de su cocina al año, en una valiosa composta para abonar sus huertas y jardines!

Vous êtes l'un des 2 millions de propriétaires de bacs de compostage pour la cour arrière Earth Machine™. Une famille utilisant un Earth Machine™ peut éviter d'envoyer 227 kg (500 lb) de déchets de cuisine et de jardin à l'enfouissement chaque année. Cela représente plus d'un demi-million kg de déchets transformés en compost de grande valeur pour vos jardins chaque année!

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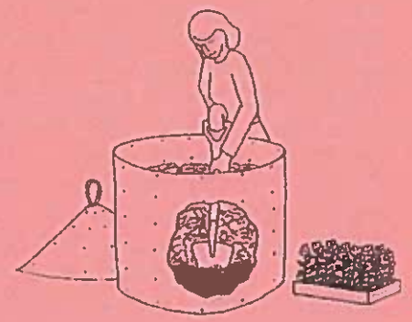
Harvesting Your Compost:



There are three ways to harvest finished compost from your bin.

1. The fastest way is to dig down along the sides of the barrel to where the compost has collected around the base of the cone. Push aside the undecomposed material and shovel out the compost as needed. The wide barrel makes it easy to work inside the bin. A hoe makes it easy to move material around in the bin. Leave a 3" layer of compost in the bottom of your Bin to help break down the fresh material.

2A. Alternatively, you can get easy access to the compost all at once by taking apart the barrel. Remove the fasteners from the barrel and peel the barrel away from the material inside.

2B. Push aside the unfinished upper layers of material. Shovel finished compost into wheelbarrow or wagon.

2C. Leave several inches of finished compost around the bottom cone to restart your pile. Re-form the barrel over the bottom cone. Toss the unfinished material back into the bin. Make sure the pile is moist – add water if necessary. Replace the lid.

3. The third option is to interchange the top and bottom cones, which gives you a place to put the unfinished material as you separate it from the finished compost. Just re-form the barrel around the former top cone so that it becomes the new bottom. Remove the rope handle to use in the new top cone. Place empty soda or detergent bottles under the new bottom cone as described in "Supporting the Bottom Cone" section. Remove the top layers from your pile and toss them into the re-formed bin. Shovel the finished compost into a wheelbarrow. Add a few shovelfuls of finished compost to re-start your pile, and mix the materials together. Then check the moisture level, insert the rope handle through the center hole of the top cone, and replace the lid.

Happy composting!

If you have questions, please call us at 1-508-998-3111.

New England Plastics Corp.

Makers of the New Age Composters

126 Duchaine Blvd.
New Bedford, MA 02745
Phone: 508-998-3111 • Fax: 508-995-8895

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NEW AGE COMPOSTER

– Assembly Instructions –

Welcome to the World of Composting! Your assembly kit contains:

1 large rectangular sheet *(barrel)*, 2 round discs *(top and bottom cones)*, 1 U-shaped plastic piece *(bottom brace)*, 3 metal ground stakes, 1 piece of rope, 20 plastic fasteners *(save extras for future use)*, a pamphlet on composting

ASSEMBLING THE PIECES:

NOTE: The plastic pieces will be easier to work with if you allow them to warm up to room temperature.

THE BARREL.

The Composter is available in three Bin sizes as indicated below. The size of your Bin is imprinted on the front of the barrel. Before starting, determine which Bin you have purchased and what diameter size best fits your needs.

BIN-11 is adjustable to two diameter sizes:

Size 1: Diameter: 30" (11 cu. ft. capacity, holds 5 bags of leaves at a time.)
Size 2: Diameter: 26" (8.5 cu. ft. capacity, holds 4 bags of leaves at a time.)

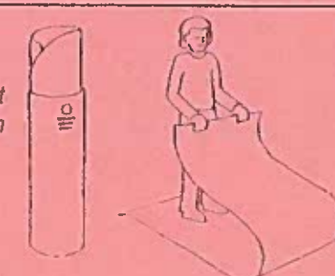
BIN-24 is adjustable to four diameter sizes:

Size 1: Diameter: 41" (24 cu. ft. capacity, holds 10 bags of leaves at a time.)
Size 2: Diameter: 37" (20 cu. ft. capacity, holds 8 bags of leaves at a time.)
Size 3: Diameter: 33" (16 cu. ft. capacity, holds 6.5 bags of leaves at a time.)
Size 4: Diameter: 30" (12 cu. ft. capacity, holds 5 bags of leaves at a time.)

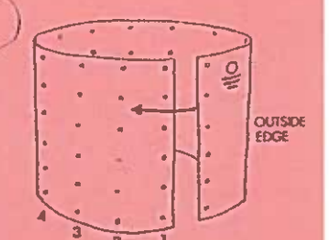
BIN-30 is adjustable to three diameter sizes:

Size 1: Diameter: 44" (30 cu. ft. capacity, holds 13 bags of leaves at a time.)
Size 2: Diameter: 40" (25 cu. ft. capacity, holds 10 bags of leaves at a time.)
Size 3: Diameter: 36" (20 cu. ft. capacity, holds 8 bags of leaves at a time.)

Assembling the Barrel:



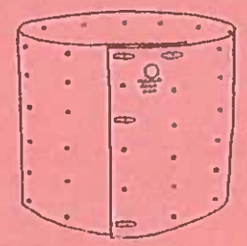
1. Unroll the large rectangular sheet *(if it retains its tight shape, lay the sheet flat on the ground and roll it back onto itself).*



2. Overlap the ends of the sheet as pictured. Make sure the label is on the outside edge. For Size 1, overlap the outside edge with column 1. For Sizes 2, 3 or 4, overlap the outside edge with columns 2, 3 or 4.

3. Pin the ends of the barrel together using 3 TA® Toggler® brand fasteners provided. Fold the wings of the fasteners *(as shown in the pictures below)* and insert the folded wings through the aligned holes, from the inside out, so that the wings open up on the outside of the bin. This will prevent the lid from snagging on the wings when you lift it off. *Note: If you lose any fastener, extras have been provided, or you can substitute a nut and bolt or place a piece of rope through the holes.*

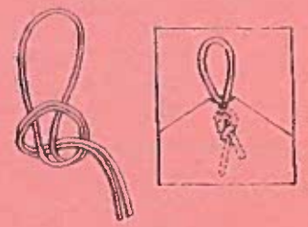
4. If you set up your bin at sizes 2, 3 or 4, use a single fastener to secure the loose flap to the barrel along the top edge. *Note: The bottom edge will be held in place against the barrel by the bottom cone.*



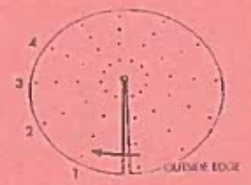
The Top and Bottom Cones:

1. Lay the round discs flat. To help uncurl the pieces and make the plastic more flexible to work with, **bend it back on itself.**

2. Form a **handle** for the top cone by folding the piece of rope in half and making a loop with **a double knot** at the bottom. *(see illus.)* Slip the rope through the large hole in the center of the disc that forms the top cone.

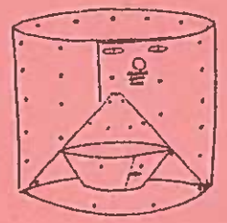


3. Form each disc into a cone the same size as the barrel. To do this, simply align the holes as you did with the barrel. The edge with the holes **closest to the slit** is the outside edge. If the barrel is on Size 1, simply overlap the outside edge with Column 1 and insert 2 fasteners in that column. If the barrel is on Size 2, 3 or 4, overlap the outside edge with Column 2, 3 or 4 and insert 2 fasteners. Use 1 fastener to secure the loose inside flap.

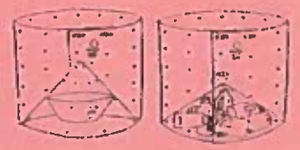


Supporting the Bottom Cone:

When setting up Bin-11 at Size 1, Bin-24 at Size 1, 2 or 3 or Bin-30 at Size 1 or 2, you must support the bottom cone with the provided brace. If the barrel is set up for the smallest sizes, the brace is not needed. Form the U-shaped piece into a circle. Adjust the diameter of the brace to fit under the cone by aligning the first hole on the labeled outside edge of the brace with the holes marked "1", "2" or "3" depending on what size you chose for the bin. Insert a fastener and secure the overlap with a second fastener. The brace will be **smallest** when the first hole on the labeled edge is fastened to the hole marked "1", but this size will support a cone set up to its **largest** size *(Size 1)*. Fastening the first hole on the labeled edge to the hole marked "2" will support a cone set up in the medium size *(Size 2)*. The brace will be **largest** when the first hole on the labeled edge is fastened to the hole marked "3", but this size will support a cone set up to the **small** size *(Size 3)*. The brace must be round to work effectively. If it takes an oval shape when assembled, push on the sides until it retains a circular shape. Place the brace on level ground with the wide end up. It will appear to be upside down in relation to the cone. Center the bottom cone over the brace. For extra support, pack the space beneath the bottom cone with empty detergent bottles with the caps screwed on tightly.



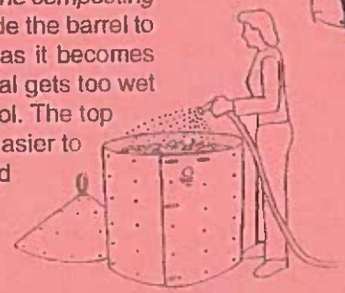
Note: The New Age Composter is most stable when located on a level surface.



Assembling the Bin:

1. Place the barrel over the bottom cone. Line up the holes in the bottom of the barrel with the holes in the edge of the bottom cone. Insert the 3 metal stakes through the bottom of the barrel and the bottom of the cone and push them into the ground.

2. Place 3-6 shovelfuls of soil, finished compost or manure in the bottom of your Composter on top of the bottom cone. Fill the bin with leaves and grass *(or other brown and green material)* and moisten to the consistency of a wrung out sponge. Vegetative kitchen scraps can be buried in this material. *(For more details, please refer to the composting booklet enclosed with your bin.)* Slide the top cone inside the barrel to rest on the material inside. Continue adding material as it becomes available. Remember to bury food scraps. If the material gets too wet and compacted, fluff it with a hoe, pitchfork, or hand tool. The top cone will fit very snuggly inside the barrel. To make it easier to lift the lid, pull the handle towards you, tilting the lid and breaking the seal.



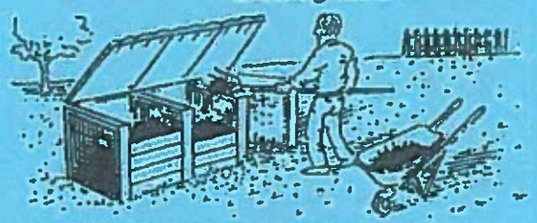
Note: Keep your bin at least half full for best results.

Composting Bins

Holding Bins

These portable containers are the simplest way to compost. Turning is optional.

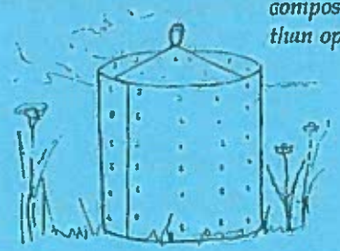
Turning Bins



A series of three or more bins allows you to make compost in a short time by turning the materials on a regular schedule.

Brave New Composter

Produces more compost faster than open piles



Earthworm Bin

How To Make a Compost Pile

There are as many different ways to make compost as there are people who do it. The following guidelines will get you started, but soon your own experience will help you tailor a method that best fits your needs.

1. Build or purchase a compost bin. Enclosed compost piles keep out pests, hold heat and moisture in, and have a neat appearance. Check to see if your community has a composting bin distribution program, or order from a garden catalogue, nursery or hardware store. Or, bins can be simply made of wire, wood, pallets, concrete blocks, even garbage cans with drainage holes drilled in them. In urban areas, rodent-resistant compost bins — having a secure cover and floor and openings no wider than one-half inch — must be used.

2. Set up the bin in a convenient, shady area with good drainage. A pile that is about three feet square and three feet high will help maintain the heat generated by the composting organisms throughout the winter. Although a smaller pile may not retain heat, it will compost.

3. Start the pile with a layer of coarse material such as corn stalks to build in air passages. Add alternating layers of "brown" and "green" materials with a shovelful of soil on top of each layer. Shredding leaves or running over them with a lawn mower will shorten the composting time. Be sure to bury food scraps in the center of the pile.

4. Add water as you build the pile if the materials are dry.

5. As time goes on, keep oxygen available to the compost critters by fluffing the pile with a hoe or compost turning tool each time you add material. A complete turning of the pile — so the top becomes the bottom — in spring and fall should result in finished compost within a year. More frequent turning will shorten the composting time.

High Nitrogen "Green" Ingredients	High Carbon "Brown" Ingredients
• Alfalfa Hay/Meal • Grass Clippings • Blood Meal • Manure (cow, horse, chicken, rabbit) • Food Wastes (fruit & vegetables, coffee grounds, tea bags, egg shells) • Seaweed	• Autumn Leaves • Cornstalks • Straw • Pine Needles • Paper/Cardboard • Wood chips • Saw Dust

Where to Get More Information

In cooperation with the Massachusetts DEP, the State of Connecticut has produced a video entitled *Turning Your Spoils to Soils*, which is available in most local libraries in Massachusetts. DEP's Solid Waste Management Program also provides technical assistance and reference materials on composting, and can be reached at (617) 292-5834.

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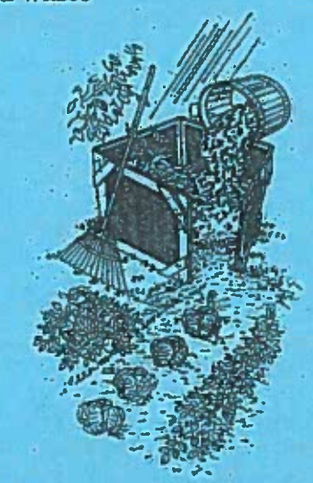
Turn spoils into soil...

Home Composting

A guide for composting yard and food waste



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

This brochure is provided by:

New England Plastics Corp.

Makers of the New Age Composters

126 Duchaine Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02745

Phone: 508-998-3111 • Fax: 508-995-8895

What is Composting?

Composting is a controlled process of decomposition of organic material. Naturally occurring soil organisms recycle nitrogen, potash, phosphorus, and other plant nutrients as they convert the material into humus.

Benefits of Composting

Composting is a convenient, beneficial and inexpensive way to handle your organic waste and help the environment. Composting:

- reduces the volume of garbage requiring disposal;
- saves money for you and your community in reduced soil purchases and reduced local disposal costs; and
- enriches the soil. Using compost adds essential nutrients, improves soil structure, which allows better root growth, and increases moisture and nutrient retention in the soil. Plants love compost!

What You Should Compost

Yard wastes such as leaves, grass clippings and weeds make excellent compost. Fruit and vegetable scraps, plus food wastes such as coffee grounds, tea bags, and eggs shells, can be composted. To keep animals and odors out of your pile, do not add meat, bones, fatty food wastes (such as cheese, grease and oils), dog and cat litter, and diseased plants. Do not add invasive weeds and weeds that have gone to seed to the pile.

Elements of a Good Compost Pile

With these principles in mind, you can convert your organic wastes into resources by turning your spoils to soil.

The Biodegraders

Nature has provided an army of workers who specialize in decomposing organic material. These "critters" — bacteria, fungi, molds, earthworms, insects and other soil organisms — eat all types of organic material and in the process convert nutrients into a form plants can utilize. Without those compost critters, we would be surrounded by mountains of leaves and the soil would be barren. The process of composting is simply a matter of providing the soil organisms with food, water and oxygen. They do the rest.

Organic Material

Organic material contains varying amounts of carbon and nitrogen which nourish the organisms naturally present in your compost pile. (Billions of bacteria inhabit the surface of every leaf and blade of grass in your yard.) The critters need both carbon and nitrogen. An easy way to provide both of these is to remember that brown, woody materials, such as autumn leaves, are high in carbon while green, moist materials, such as grass clippings, are high in nitrogen (refer to the table on the back of this brochure).

Alternating layers of brown and green materials will yield finished compost in three to eight months. Leaves alone break down in six to 15 months. Grass clippings or food scraps composted alone result in unpleasant odors because they contain more nitrogen than the compost organisms can use. Layer leaves or straw with green material, or let it dry until it turns brown before composting it alone.

Air

The compost critters need oxygen, just as we do. Lack of oxygen will slow down the composting process and cause odors. Turn your pile, fluff it with a hoe or compost turning tool, or build air passages into the pile with cornstalks to provide oxygen to the organisms.

Moisture

Compost organisms need a moist environment. The pile should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge, but not dripping wet. Make sure leaves are damp when you add them to the compost pile because they will not break down if they are dry. Since moisture evaporates as the pile heats up (a sign of active composting), let rain and snow replace it, or add water during dry spells. A cover helps retain moisture in hot weather.

How to Use Compost

When the composted materials look like rich, brown soil, it is ready to use. Apply one-half to three inches of finished compost and mix it in with the top four inches of soil about one month before planting. Compost can be applied as a top dressing in the garden throughout the summer. Compost is excellent for reseeding lawns, and it can be spread one-quarter inch deep over the entire lawn to rejuvenate the turf. To make potting soil, mix equal parts compost, sand and loam. You may put the compost through a sieve to remove large particles – these can go back into the pile.

Mulching

Grass clippings, leaves and woody yard wastes can be used as mulch in gardens and around shrubs to keep the soil moist, control weed growth and add nutrients. Woody materials should be chipped or shredded. Use a mulch of pine needles around acid-loving plants. Leaves will work first as mulch, then as a soil enricher as they decompose. Grass clippings should be dried before using as mulch. Do not mulch with grass clippings which have been treated with herbicides; composting them first, however, will break down the herbicides.

Composting Without a Yard

Composting can be done indoors using an earthworm farm. Not only can you recycle your food scraps, you can also have a steady supply of fishing bait! For more information call DEP's Solid Waste Management Program.

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Convenient, Mess-Free Food Scrap Collection

NPL 390 Kitchen Collector

The ORBIS Kitchen Collector is designed for convenient kitchen food scrap collection. The contemporary designs fits in any décor, and is a mess-free, odor-free, and easy-to-use scrap pail that is easily transported from the counter to your outdoor compost pile or curbside container.

MESS-FREE, ODOR-FREE

- Smooth interior walls for ease of cleaning
- Wide opening for convenient, no-mess food disposal
- Wide base creates stable surface for bin
- Bag clip for disposable bin liners
- Snap latch lid with double rim seal eliminates odors
- Solid lid option keeps food odors in the container
- One-hand dumping using the bottom finger grip and handle
- Takes apart easily for cleaning

EASY-TO-USE

- Easy-tilt handle for easy one-hand transport
- Compact design fits in cabinet, under sink or on counter top
- Hinged lid facilitates easy opening
- Dishwasher safe
- 90 degree lid stop for easy loading

Wide container opening

Vented lid option

Lid Stop

OTHER FEATURES

- Vented lid option promotes moisture evaporation
- Color options available

Pictured: Solid Lid Option

Product ID:	**NPL390**
L x W x H with Handle	12.9" x 8.0" x 9.32" 32.8cm x 20.4cm x 23.7cm
L x W x H without Handle	12.3" x 8.0" x 9.32" 31.3cm x 20.4cm x 23.7cm
Capacity:	1.85 gallons 7 liters
Weight:	1.16 pounds/0.526 kg
Durability:	To minus 20ºC
Hot Stamp size:	4" W x 3" H 10.1cm x 7.6cm
Shipping configuration:	26 per carton 13,520 per 53' trailer
Material:	Manufactured in HDPE
Warranty:	5 years

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Phone 262-560-5000
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www.orbiscorporation.com