

HOW TO USE YOUR NEW COMPOST TUMBLER

Single: Barrel is 220L in capacity, and will take 14 days for fresh compost.

Dual: Barrel is 360L In capacity and will also take 14 days for fresh compost, although because the barrels are separate you can have one composting while harvesting the other, giving you Compost every 7 days!

Do not overload: Leave enough room at the top when loading to allow material to move or tumble. They can be operated half full, however any less material will **not** allow a 'heat zone' to be created.

Anything that has been living is "organic" and can be added to your Compost Tumbler for composting – **except meat**. It is important to layer both green and dry ingredients to get the best results. If mainly using garden waste in your composter, the ideal ratio is 4:1 green:dry ingredients. However if only using vegetable waste in your mix, the ratio would be more like 1:1 with dry components as the vegetable waste holds more moisture than garden waste.

Adding a small amount of farm manure can also speed up the heat process, however too much will make the tumbler too heavy to turn.



Green Materials	Dry Materials
Fresh lawn clippings – main ingredient and should be added day 1.	Saw dust/wood shavings
Weeds/soft pruning	Shredded newspaper – no glossy print
Vegetable peelings/fruit skin	Dry leaves
Tea bags/coffee grounds	Vacuum dust
Hay/straw – dampened before addition	Torn up cardboard/paper towelling

TURNING THE MIXTURE

Use the moulded handgrips to rotate the barrel – one hand in front of the other in a walking motion. Five full rotations a day is enough. Daily movement is a necessary part of the cycle as it allows oxygen to circulate and the aerobic bacteria to flourish. The materials inside will reach a temperature of 55 degrees within a couple of days and will be maintained for about 10 days – destroying any pathogens that may cause disease.

Leave the lid pointing downward between daily rotations. If any moisture drips from the aeration vents slightly adjust the ratio of ingredients by adding some extra dry materials. Or leave the lid off for a bit.

The last four days is the cooling off period, which should leave the compost slightly damp.

TO EMPTY

Remove the lid and rock the barrel to release the compost onto the ground or the tray. Ideally leave a small amount of the compost in the barrel – this will assist in activating bacteria for your next lot of compost materials.

Dig the compost down below the surface of the garden. This will help condition the soil and add back the microbes that help in the process, encouraging earthworms and bacterial activity. It also helps aerate and feed the soil down near the roots. You can also spread onto the surface garden beds. Compost helps maintain the moisture and the nutrients will leech down to the plant roots with watering. However ensure to keep slightly away from plant stems to allow them to breath. Potted plants will also benefit from compost – soak a small amount of your compost in a bucket of water for an hour or two, then drain the nutrient filled water onto your plants.

You can tilt the frame to the top of the barrel and roll to the required spot. **(Be careful – this can be heavy!)**

PLEASE NOTE:

Add a small amount of top soil from a healthy garden bed. It contains the microbial life required to break down the organic material to compost.

Keep the lid(s) pointing down or forward. This prevents rain from building up in your mix.

Try to keep your tumbler in a sunny position as the extra heat will help

Rinse out periodically over your garden & clean air vents.



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