

Tumbler Style Composter Tip Sheet

The compost you produce will improve your soil condition and will feed your plants with organic nutrients – black gold. It can be used as a mulch, a fertilizer or mixed in with your potting mix for planters.

This tip sheet will provide you with some information to ensure your success.

- Put your composter in a sunny spot in your yard. The more sun and warmth it gets the more efficient your composter will be.
- Fill your composter with a combination of GREEN and BROWN materials. Most tumbler style composters recommend 25% green and 75% brown materials. Check your owner's manual for specific instructions. The right amount of each is important as this helps with the decomposing process.
Greens include: grass clippings, garden plants, indoor plants, cut flowers, non-invasive weeds (without seeds), fruit/vegetable trimmings/peels, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, egg shells
Browns include: leaves, shredded paper/newspaper/cardboard, paper towels, napkins, old potting soil,
- Chop materials in to small pieces before putting them in the composter. The smaller the particles the hotter and faster your process will be.
- DO NOT put the following items in your composter: meat products/bones, fish, dairy products, fats and oils (these will attract unwanted animals to your composter), pet waste. Avoid adding any materials that have pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer on them.
- Once your composter is full stop adding to it so all the materials can fully decompose. You can start a pile in the corner of your yard which you can then put in to your composter once you have emptied it.
- Add a shovel full of dirt from your garden to the composter. There are microbes in there which are needed to start the decomposing process.
- Turn your composter frequently – a minimum of 2 times a week and a maximum of 3 times a week is recommended. Several good turns each time to ensure the compost is well broken up and mixed with air which speeds up decomposition.
- Check the moisture level in your composter. It should feel like a wrung-out sponge. If it is too dry add some water to achieve this consistency. If it feels too wet add some shredded cardboard, newspaper or leaves to soak up the excess moisture.
- Ideally your compost will be ready to use in 4 weeks. You should not be able to see any of the original materials as it will have turned in to a dark, rich compost and will be about half the original input.
- Good luck and enjoy the process.