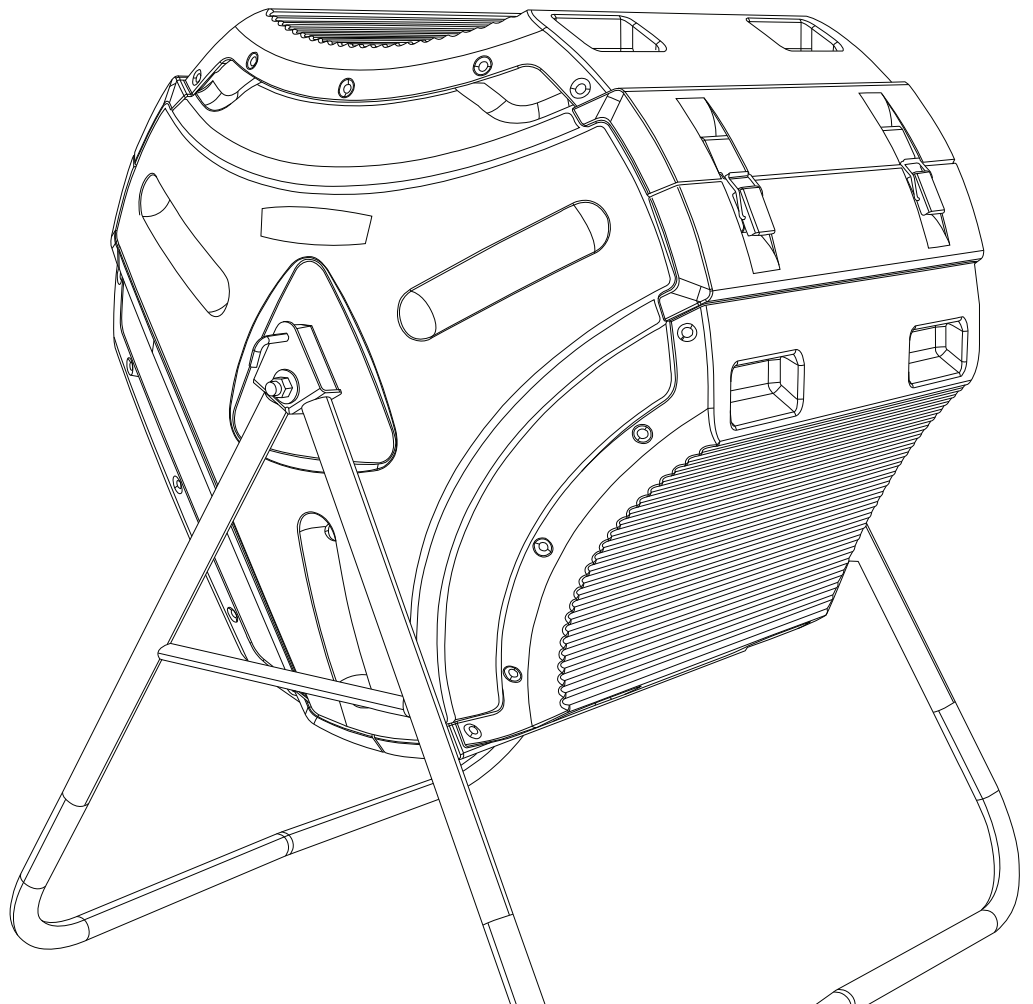




LIFETIME COMPOST TUMBLER

HOW TO INSTRUCTIONS



COMPOSTING - ACCELERATING NATURE'S PROCESS

In nature, such as grasslands or forests, plants die or shed their foliage which returns nutrients back into the soil. This is referred to as the nitrogen cycle. As we maintain our yards, we pull up the dead plants and rake up the scattered leaves. Now the issue is what we do with this material. We could haul it off to a landfill or incinerator. A better option is to do what nature does. Nature recycles. Yet we can have the best of both worlds. We can have our neat yards and recycle our own yard waste by composting.

Composting is the process of breaking down or decomposing organic materials for use as an excellent soil amendment. Beneficial bacteria and fungi do their part to return this waste into a form usable once again by plants. These microbes need air, water, food, and heat to thrive. Keeping the microbes "happy" will speed up the process.

A compost pile needs to be constructed to allow enough airflow. Otherwise, the process can become anaerobic, which is what causes the foul smell. Turning the pile regularly will loosen up the compost, creating air passages. Too much air exposure can quickly dry out the compost, bringing decomposition to a standstill.

The pile needs to be watered, but not so much as to "drown" the microbes. Elevating the bin can help to drain excess water. Sheltering the compost from the wind and rain will help control the amount water.

The microbes need both carbon and nitrogen as food. The carbon to nitrogen ratio most beneficial to the microbes is around 20:1. Charts are available which list the C:N ratio of various common materials. Add materials that contain the chemical the compost is lacking, usually the green (high nitrogen) materials, in order to hit the target ratio.

Nitrogen fertilizer, such as urea, fills this need nicely. It stores well and requires little space. Rather than proportioning the materials, simply add more nitrogen fertilizer as needed.

The temperature of the compost is a good indicator of the bio activity. As the microbes consume the food, they give off heat. Active compost temperatures range from 80 °F to 150 °F. If it feels comfortably warm (like the water in a hot tub) the microbes are active. If it feels the same temperature as the outside air, more nitrogen fertilizer will revitalize the microbes.

Just like ants on an ant hill, temperature makes the microbes move faster. The faster they work, the sooner the compost is complete. The temperature can be increased economically by placing the bin in the sunlight. (Avoid temperatures over 160 °F.) Insulated bins will help maintain temperature throughout the night.

Compost starters and inoculants are not needed since these microbes are already present on the waste material. However, a shovelful of garden soil or leftover compost can be added if desired.

Over the years various methods have been used to make compost. Most require a fair amount of space and effort, as well as look unattractive and smell bad.

The new Lifetime Compost Tumbler maintains all of the necessary conditions for quicker results without the hassle of other methods.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

- Saves land fill space, as well as, time and gas transporting yard waste.
- Improves the soils ability to retain moisture, reducing watering costs.
- Provides needed humus and nutrients for healthy plants.

BENEFITS OF A COMPOSTING WITH THE LIFETIME COMPOST TUMBLER

- Hides the messy appearance of a compost pile, and takes less space.
- Easily rotates saving time and effort of turning a pile.
- Reduces smell by enclosing composting material and providing adequate air supply to maintain desired aerobic microbiological activity.
- Helps to maintain proper moisture by shedding rain and shielding compost from drying winds.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF THE LIFETIME COMPOST TUMBLER

- Heavy-Duty UV-Protected HDPE Panels – Made from 100% Post Consumer Recycled Material.
 - Balanced Lightweight Construction.
 - Sturdy 1 ¼ dia. steel frame - powder coated upper frame, galvanized lower frame.
 - 75 Gallon Capacity - 10 Cubic Feet.
 - Black, double walled panels absorb and retain heat.
 - Extra large, removable lid for easy filling and dumping.
 - Lid latches shut to keep rodents out and compost in.
 - Ingenious Tumbler Design - Turns on Axis for Easy and Balanced Rotation.
 - Spring-loaded pin locks rotation during filling and emptying.
 - Aerated Internal Bar Mixes Compost and Allows Air Flow.
 - Aesthetically Pleasing Appearance - No More Messy Compost Heaps!
 - All hardware included.
 - Straight-forward assembly.
 - 5-Year Limited Warranty.
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HOW TO USE THE LIFETIME COMPOST TUMBLER



FOR YOUR SAFETY: Wear gloves. Keep composter well maintained. Engage spring-loaded pin before opening lid. Latch lid securely before disengaging spring-loaded pin.

1

- Choose a Location on level grass or dirt where drainage won't affect pavement.
- Choose a Location where it will be convenient to access for loading.
- Choose a Location where direct sunlight will help heat up the compost. (During hot summer months move empty composter to where it is shaded from the afternoon sun.)

2

- Fill the composter with the recommended materials as they become available. The best compost is made from a blend of materials.

WHAT TO COMPOST

- **KITCHEN SCRAPS** like fruit and vegetable peelings, cores, egg shells, and coffee grounds.
- **LAWN CLIPPINGS** can be returned directly to the lawn with a mulching blade or composted as desired, especially if the grass clippings are too long to be left on the lawn.
- **LEAVES** can be mowed to reduce their size which will speed up decomposition and increase the amount which will fit in the composter.
- **WOOD** such as branches must be chipped or shredded in pieces smaller than 1 inch. Saw dust must be resin free i.e. no particle board.
- **PLANTS** discarded from the garden, straw and hay.
- **MANURES** from herbivores e.g. cows, rabbits, or chickens. Excessive amounts will also increase the salt content of the compost.

WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

- Meat, bones, greases, dairy products, or bread which attract pests.
- Anything treated with pesticides or herbicides.
- Black Walnut leaves which inhibit plant growth.
- Oak leaves and pine needles which decompose slowly.
- Diseased plants or weeds with seeds.
- Pet or human waste.
- Plastic, foil, etc.

HOW TO USE THE LIFETIME COMPOST TUMBLER

3 The compost will settle. Over time more can be added but then should be left to finish composting, which will take 4 to 12 weeks depending on materials used and the environment. This is a batch process, so more than one composter is recommended. That way, one can be available for loading while the others are “cooking”.

4 Rotate several revolutions weekly. If the composter is mostly filled with grass, it may need to be rotated more frequently to keep the grass from matting together.

5 Add water, if needed. Material should be moist but not soggy. Too much water or dense material such as dirt will make it difficult to turn the composter.



NOTE: If the composter is filled mainly with high carbon material such as autumn leaves or woodchips, nitrogen fertilizer can be added at a rate of 1 cup of ammonium sulfate or ½ cup urea every two weeks, if needed to raise the temperature.

6 The compost is done when it becomes dark brown and has an earthy smell. It can be added directly to ornamental plants as mulch or worked into soil.



NOTE: For vegetable gardens it is recommended to either work it into the soil after harvest or allow the compost to “cure” on the ground for two months before spreading it in the garden.

7 The composter can easily be dragged after dumping to make room for another pile. It is recommended to dump the finished compost on the ground, and then shovel it into a wheelbarrow to prevent damage to the inside of the composter from the shovel.



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