

# Guide to Home Composting

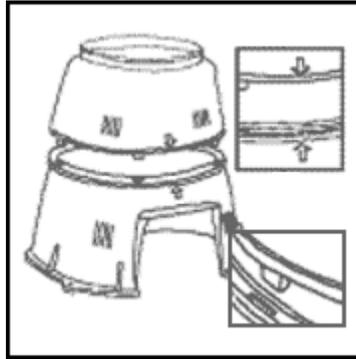
So you've decided to try your hand at Home Composting. Congratulations! Sit back and relax, because composting is an amazingly easy way for you to make a difference. In less than ten minutes a week, you can:

- Reduce the amount of household garbage you generate by 25% or more – 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.

## Earth Machine™ Assembly Instructions



**Step 1**  
Twist and remove the lid.



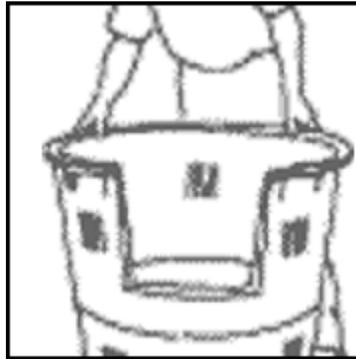
**Step 2**  
Place the bottom section on the ground, and set the top section on top of it.  
**IMPORTANT:** Make sure that the arrows on the top and bottom sections line up. Also, the bottom of the top section should sit in the groove on the top of the bottom section.



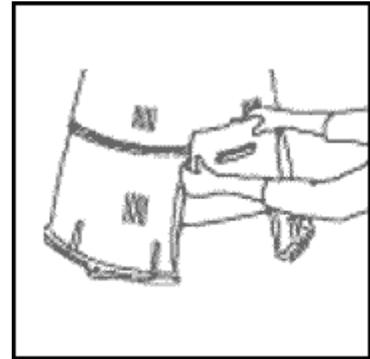
**Step 3**  
Check the outside and inside with your hand to ensure the 6 tabs line up with the 6 slots.



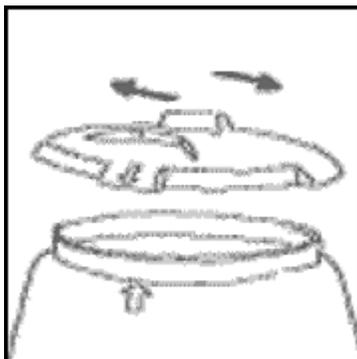
**Step 4**  
To ensure the tabs are completely in the slots, push down firmly on the two halves of the Earth Machine™ starting at the arrows and working fully around the compost bin rim.



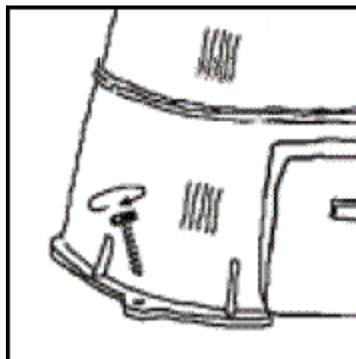
**Step 5**  
To confirm that all 6 tabs are in place, turn the unit upside down and make a visual check.



**Step 6**  
Slide the harvest door in place, bending slightly if necessary.



**Step 7**  
Put the lid on by lining up the arrow on the lid with the arrow on the top of the Earth Machine™. Twist the lid to lock or control ventilation.



**Step 8**  
Once you have determined the location (see next page), you can anchor the Earth Machine™ 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.

## Where to Put Your Earth Machine™

The most important factor for locating your 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 Earth Machine™ users make the mistake of hiding it in the back of the yard, thinking it will smell or attract pests, and then find it inconvenient. The Earth Machine™ handbook will show you how to compost easily and trouble-free, so don't hide your Earth Machine™ – 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.

**TIP:** It helps to put your Earth Machine™ in a well-drained spot. You can speed things up by cutting out the sod under the Earth Machine™ to invite worms and microbes in and improve drainage.



## Composting Starts In The Kitchen

To keep material from sticking to the bottom and sides of the Kitchen Collector, line it with a sheet of newspaper or paper towel. When you empty the pail into your Earth Machine™ every couple of days, it will slide out cleanly. Give your Kitchen Collector a quick rinse after you empty it and re-line it. The newspaper or paper towel will compost in your Earth Machine™.



## What To Compost

Your Earth Machine™ 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 Earth Machine™ happy.

### KITCHEN GREENS

Fruit scraps, vegetable scraps  
Houseplant cuttings  
Coffee grounds  
Rice & pasta  
Egg shells  
Tea bags



### KITCHEN BROWNS

Coffee filters, stale bread  
Paper napkins & towels  
Dryer lint  
Hair

### YARD GREENS

Flowers  
Vegetables  
Plant trimmings  
Hedge clippings  
Grass (small amounts)



### YARD BROWNS

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

## How To Compost

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.



### CHOP

It helps to chop up larger items like watermelon rinds or corn cobs before putting them in your Kitchen Collector.



### EMPTY

Once your Kitchen Collector is full, take it to your Earth Machine™ and empty it out.



### 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.



### COVER

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

carbon and reduce the

**TIP:** Keep the material in your

Earth Machine™ about as moist as a wrung-out sponge.



## Harvesting Your Compost

After a few months, the kitchen scraps near the bottom of your Earth Machine™ 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.



### Harvesting Small Amounts

Your Earth Machine Earth Machine™ 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 Compost Pile

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

- Unscrew the four pegs
- Lift the Earth Machine™ 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 your Earth Machine™

You may want to use a compost screen to help separate the unfinished material from the finished compost.

**TIP:** You can make your own compost screen in minutes with 1/4 inch hardware cloth and a wood frame.



## Using 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.

#### IN YOUR GARDEN

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

#### 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.

#### AROUND TREES & 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.

[CLICK HERE FOR ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

## The Big Picture

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### 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.

### Congratulations

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You are one of over **2 million users of Earth Machine™** backyard Earth Machine™s.

A family using an **Earth Machine™** can divert over 500 pounds of kitchen scraps and yard waste each year.

That's over one billion pounds of garbage transformed into valuable compost for our gardens each and every year!

