

# ALL ABOUT YOUR GREEN CONE

A Unique  
Food Waste Digester  
System NOT a back yard  
composter

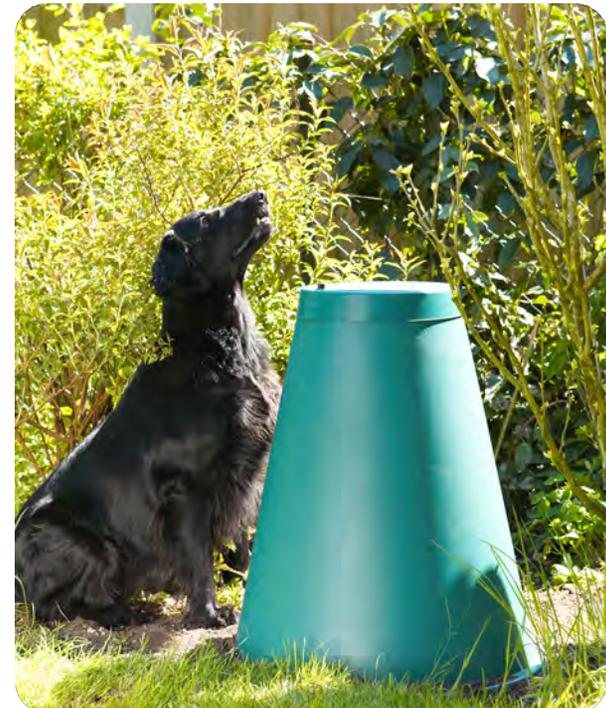


Please read this  
Instruction Manual  
before you assemble or  
install your Green Cone



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# INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to help you set up and use the Green Cone System within your back yard. The Green Cone is a completely ecological system that reduces your food waste to its natural components of water, carbon dioxide and a small residue. This solar-heated unit takes ALL cooked and uncooked food waste including meat, fish, bones, dairy products, vegetables and fruit. Put all your food waste into your Green Cone, situated in a sunny part of your yard, and forget about it - almost everything disappears!

## THE BENEFITS TO YOU

- Waste food can be disposed of cleanly and quickly, before it becomes smelly
- With no food waste in your bins, your other rubbish is dry and easier to recycle
- Safe for you, your family, pets and your garden plants
- Easy to set up and maintain
- 10-year guarantee

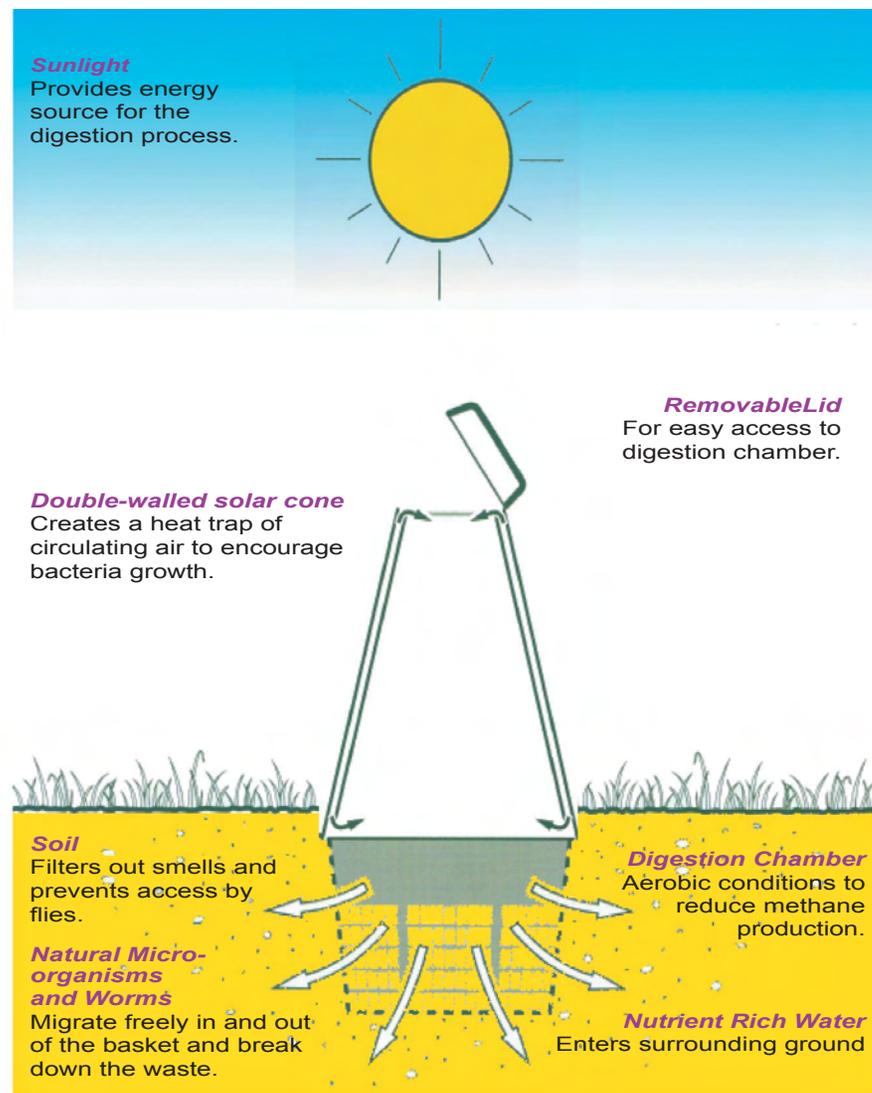
## HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Saves up to 20% of household garbage from having to be collected by your waste hauler
- Less rubbish means fewer dump trucks on the road
- Makes recycling household waste much easier
- Reduces the need for landfill, centralized composting and incineration

## GREEN CONE VERSUS TRADITIONAL COMPOST BIN

Traditional home composting is an excellent way of recycling garden waste back into the soil. However, unlike a Green Cone, a garden composter is not suitable for recycling many types of food waste, including cooked vegetables, pasta, meat, bones, dairy products and also pet feces. The Green Cone has been designed to break down these materials in a safe and efficient way. The waste is digested rather than composted and is primarily reduced to water. This nutrient rich water enters the soil under the base of the digestion unit. Very little waste residue is produced by a well operating Green Cone and, unlike traditional compost bins, there is no need to manually turn and churn the waste.

# HOW THE GREEN CONE WORKS



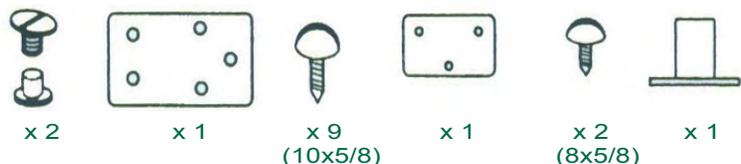
*Over 90% of the waste material in your Green Cone will be absorbed as water by the soil.*

## ASSEMBLING YOUR GREEN CONE

### YOU MUST ASSEMBLE GREEN CONE BEFORE INSTALLATION

**PARTS:** Lid, Green Outer Cone, Black Inner Cone, Basket

Studs      Hinge      Screws      Backplate      Screws      Twistlock



**Tools required:**



**STEP 1.** Place the ribbed side of the hinge on the inside of the lid. Screw the hinge onto the lid through the pre-drilled holes using the two studs.



**STEP 2.** Attach the twistlock to the outer cone through the marked holes using the two 8x5/8 screws.



**STEP 3.** Place the lid on top of the green outer cone. Screw the hinge to the outer cone using three 10x5/8 self-tapping screws and backplate as shown. When using these screws pre-drilled holes are not required.



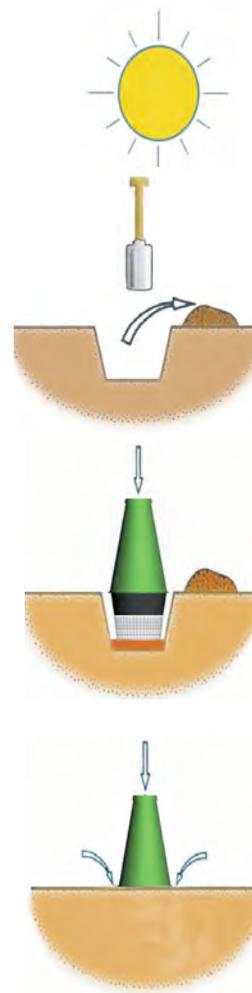
**STEP 4.** Place the green outer cone over the black inner cone; making sure that the lid opens in a convenient direction. Line up the screw holes in the base of the green outer cone with the notches on the base of the black inner cone. Use six 10x5/8 self-tapping screws to secure the cones to the basket.



The safety bar across the opening of the green outer cone can be removed using a hacksaw if desired (see Frequently Asked Questions)

## INSTALLING YOUR GREEN CONE

The Green Cone converts food waste primarily into water and carbon dioxide. The water produced must be able to drain freely away; otherwise the Green Cone will become anaerobic (without oxygen) and cease to work. It is therefore vital to install your Green Cone in an area of good drainage - or create good drainage by putting gravel (or small stones, small pieces of broken terracotta pots, small pieces of broken bricks) under the basket. Under no circumstances must the base of the basket be below the water table or where water gathers.



Choose a **sunny spot** in the yard - the sunnier the better.

If your soil drains well, dig a hole 70 cm (28") wide and 54 cm (22") deep.

When you have dug the hole, pour a bucket of water into it, if the water disappears within a few minutes you have good drainage.

If the water remains for more than 15 minutes you have poor drainage and will need to enlarge the hole as per the clay details below.

If you live in an area of heavy clay or chalk, make the hole 90 cm (36") wide and 70 cm (28") deep.

Mix some of the soil from the hole with gravel and/or compost. This 'mixture' is for backfilling later and will improve the drainage.

In areas of heavy clay or chalk, include gravel (or small stones, small pieces of broken terracotta pots, small pieces of broken bricks) in the 'mixture' to aid drainage.

Place the 'mixture' in the base of the hole so that when the basket is placed in the hole it is 3cm (1") below ground level.

Place the assembled Green Cone in the hole. Ensure the top of the black basket and the bottom lip of the green outer cone are **below** ground level.

Backfill the gap with the 'mixture' until the bottom lip of the Green Cone is **fully covered**.

# USING YOUR GREEN CONE

## Kitchen Scrap Carrier

The Green Cone is **not** supplied with a scrap caddy that can be kept in your kitchen to reduce the number of trips you make to your Green Cone. Throughout the day food waste can be put into a food waste bucket before it is taken to your Green Cone. To reduce the potential for odors, use a caddy with a carbon filter in the lid.

**The Green Cone is designed to handle the following amount of waste:**

**1 full caddy every 1-2 days during the summer**

**1 full caddy every 2-3 days during the winter**

## Accelerator Powder

Your Green Cone is now supplied with an accelerant and shaker jar. You can also find microbial digesters at most home improvement stores (ex. septic system granules). Where the Green Cone is situated in a position that does not enjoy fun sun, or when there are long periods of cold weather, the digestion process may benefit from the application of an accelerator. Simply shake a small amount of the powder into the food waste bucket before emptying into the Green Cone. It is also beneficial to use the powder for the first week after the installation of the Green Cone to encourage the growth of beneficial bacteria. Accelerants are simply mixtures of natural bacteria that ensure a healthy population of safe microbes to keep your Green Cone working efficiently. Store shaker jar away from heat and moisture. Replacement powder is available on our website.

## Dealing with Household Waste

The Green Cone is an integral part of dealing with your household waste. It takes your cooked and uncooked kitchen food waste, including: meat, fish, bones, dairy products, vegetables, fruit, peelings, etc. The only exceptions are bulk amounts of food related materials that require a very long time to breakdown, namely: cooking oil/fat and the hard shells of nuts and seafood, such as oysters and crabs.

Other household waste (i.e. non-kitchen food waste) must **not** be put into the Green Cone but disposed of accordingly.

These other wastes may be summarized as follows:

**Recycle:** non-biodegradable materials such as metal, wood, plastic and consumer items such as batteries, mobile phones, etc.

**Compost:** straw, leaves and garden waste such as grass and hedge clippings.

Special treatment (see guidance provided at [www.rethinkrubbish.com](http://www.rethinkrubbish.com)):

- Petroleum based liquids, solvents, paints, chemicals such as bleach, household cleaners, insecticides, etc.
- Medical and pharmaceutical waste such as dressings, medicine and drugs.
- Sanitary items such as disposable napkins

**In summary, your Green Cone should be used as follows:**

## WHAT CAN GO IN

Fish  
Red Meat & Poultry  
All Bones  
Breads and pastas  
Fruit including peelings  
Vegetables including peelings  
Dairy  
Cooked & spoiled food scraps  
Crushed egg shells  
Tea bags  
Animal excrement

## WHAT CAN'T GO IN

Metal  
Wood  
Plastic  
Glass  
Paper  
Straw  
Grass cuttings  
Hedge clippings  
Bulk oil  
Disinfectant & bleaches  
Special treatment items

## Maintenance

Your Green Cone needs very little maintenance. As noted in the section on "installing Your Green Cone", it is important to ensure that the top of the basket and the bottom lip of the outer green cone are below ground level and always fully covered with soil.

In a well operating Green Cone very little waste residue will be produced. Should the residue build-up to ground level and not decrease, the cones can be removed to access the basket. The residue can be dug into any suitable area of ground.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How easy is the Green Cone System to use?**

Very. In your kitchen, fill the your scrap carrier with all your organic kitchen waste. When convenient, empty the caddy into the Green Cone in your back yard. That's all there is to it.

## **Where should I put the Green Cone itself?**

Situate in a sunny, close-to-hand spot like a flowerbed or vegetable plot. Do not put your Green Cone in a cold, dark, wet place, as it will not work properly.

## **Can I use chemical activators as well?**

No. Chemicals can kill or disrupt the bacteria breaking down the food waste. If activator is required, only use natural, microbial-based accelerators.

## **Can I use my Green Cone to dispose of animal excrement?**

Yes, in moderation if you are not using the residue on a vegetable patch. When it comes time to empty the Cone, take care to wear gloves and make sure you wash your hands.

## **How much food waste can I put in my Green Cone?**

Provided your Green Cone has been correctly installed, three-quarters to one kilogram of food waste can be disposed of in your Green Cone each day. This amount is typical of that produced by a family of four. The precise quantity of waste digested by your Green Cone each day will depend upon the ambient temperature, the population of bacteria and the mix of food waste you produce, where just like us, the Green Cone responds to a balanced diet of vegetables, fruit, fish and meat!

## **Can I put garden waste in my Green Cone?**

This is not recommended. A traditional compost bin or heap is better at handling garden waste such as grass cuttings.

## **Do I have to turn or mix the contents in my Green Cone?**

No, just put all your food waste into the Cone and forget it. Your Green Cone does all the hard work for you.

## **Will my Green Cone work all year round?**

Yes. Your Green Cone works 365 days a year. The level of food waste may rise during winter but should drop down when the weather gets warmer. If it slows during very cold periods, you may use the natural accelerator supplied with the unit to recharge the microbes.

## **When and how often should I empty my Green Cone?**

In a well operating Green Cone the waste residue will only need to be removed every few years and certainly no more than once a year. It requires emptying when the residue builds-up to about 10 cm (4") below ground level and shows no signs of reducing.

## **Should I clean my scrap carrier or caddy?**

Once a week, hand wash in warm soapy water.

## **Why is there a bar across the top of the Green Cone?**

The bar across the mouth of the Green Cone provides some rigidity in storage and transit. Its original purpose was to prevent small children climbing into the Green Cone. Turning the new catch on the lid now serves the same purpose and the bar may safely be removed using a hacksaw to allow large scraps and carcasses to be put more easily into the Green Cone.

## **What about methane?**

Food decomposing in the presence of oxygen in your Green Cone produces very little methane.

## **Can my Green Cone stop working?**

Problems may occur if the advice on locating your Green Cone given in this booklet is not followed, namely: It must be in a sunny spot in your yard and not a shady area. The surrounding soil must be well-drained and not heavy clay or chalk. The black basket must not be below the water table or in an area where water gathers.

If these installation steps are not followed, the digestion process could turn anaerobic (without oxygen) and the food waste will appear wet and slimy. The only solution is to reinstall your Green Cone in accordance with these instructions.

In periods of cold weather the digestion process may slow down due to lack of natural bacteria. This would be evident by the level of waste in the basket not decreasing. Under these circumstances, the addition of beneficial microbes found in the accelerator powder should restore the bacteria population and restart the digestion process.

## **Will the Green Cone attract flies?**

The Green Cone is a sealed unit and when properly installed emits no smells. It does not therefore attract flies. However, the eggs of fruit flies are already in the skins of many fruits and can hatch out in the Green Cone. Similarly, if food or food waste is not kept covered prior to going into the Green Cone, eggs may be laid by a housefly. These would also produce maggots and flies in the Green Cone. Good housekeeping is therefore important. Should flies become a nuisance they can be eradicated by using an air borne fly killer (given the enclosed space inside the Cone a little squirt kills the flies very quickly), which will not kill the bacteria.

## **Does the Green Cone attract vermin?**

If correctly installed, your Green Cone will not attract vermin. By ensuring that the top of the black basket and the bottom lip of the green outer cone are below ground level any smells that would normally attract vermin will be filtered out by the surrounding soil. It is also important not to spill food near the Green Cone.

If your question is not covered in this section or you would like to discuss any other issues, please use the contact list for your area on the back page of this booklet.