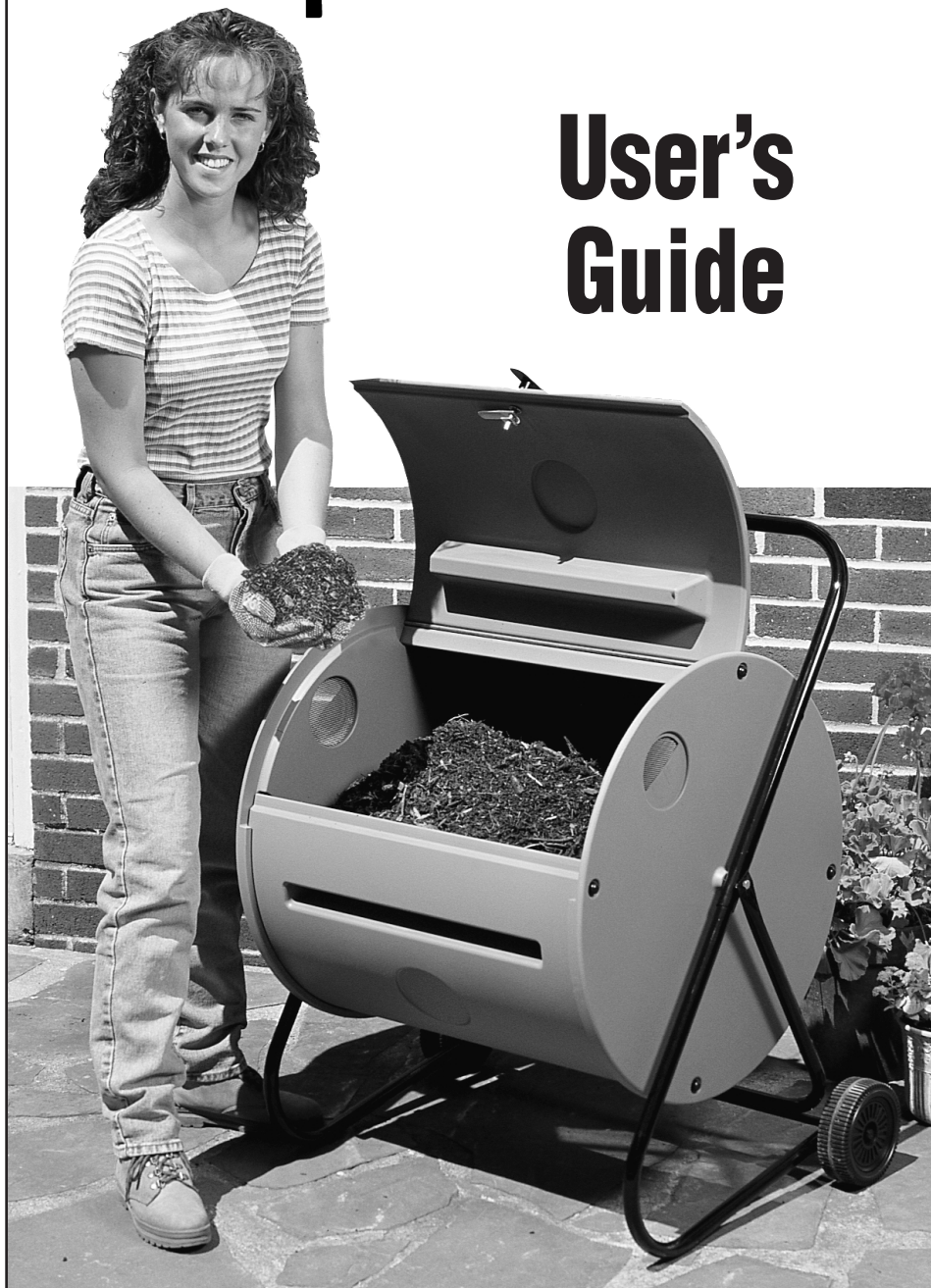


Back Porch **ComposTumbler®**

User's Guide



User's Guide

The following guidelines will help you have compost within four to six weeks. This process allows you to gradually fill your Back Porch ComposTumbler with common organic kitchen throw-outs as well as yard and garden waste. The speed at which these materials compost is dependent upon the carbon/nitrogen content of the materials, their size, the moisture of the materials, and how often you turn the drum.

Composting Tips

- 1** The ratio of materials you put into your unit will affect the amount of time it takes to make compost. You must always use a combination of fresh green and dead brown materials, and the volume of green should be equal to or greater than the brown. Adding more green materials to the drum can speed up your composting time but you should not exceed a 75/25 percent mix of green material to brown material.
- 2** Use garden waste and plant or grass trimmings within two to three days of cutting or they will not have enough nitrogen left to be useful as a fresh green source. If you use dead grass as a source of carbon, try to include another brown material along with it. Dead grass is very low in carbon and may not be sufficient by itself. For other carbon/brown sources please see the list below.

What To Compost

Green Material

(Nitrogen)

- ✓ Fruit peels
- ✓ Vegetable peels
- ✓ Coffee grounds & filters
- ✓ Tea bags
- ✓ Egg shells
- ✓ Peanut shells
- ✓ Garden waste
- ✓ Plant trimmings
- ✓ Fresh grass clippings
- ✓ Hair trimmings

Brown Material

(Carbon)

- ✓ Leaves (dry)
- ✓ Dry grass
- ✓ Dead garden waste
- ✓ Straw
- ✓ Sawdust
- ✓ Wood ashes (cold)
- ✓ Tissue Paper
- ✓ B/W Newspaper
- ✓ Paper and cartons
- ✓ Egg cartons

Do Not Put These Materials In Your ComposTumbler



**Meat
Fish
Dairy products
Sauces
Oil
Fat
Pet waste
Diseased plants
Seedling weeds
Bones**

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It is not required that you chop or shred the materials you put into your Back Porch ComposTumbler. However, if you don't, you can expect the materials to take considerably longer to compost. The smaller the materials, the faster they will decompose in the composting process.

Balance of Green and Brown Materials

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It is important to remember to keep the balance between green and brown materials to at least a 50/50 percent mix. If you add a bag full of green kitchen throw outs you should add some brown material. This balance is an integral factor in the composting process.

If you are adding equal, small amounts of throw outs your unit may not fill up but rather become your bottomless garbage pail. However, if your unit does fill up or if you want to get finished compost before it fills up, it is necessary to stop adding materials so that the unit can finish off the existing materials.

The time it takes for the load to finish is dependent upon the green/brown ratio you have been maintaining, the volume of the material in the unit, whether you have been chopping up the materials before adding them, and the moisture content of the materials. Your load could take between four to six weeks to finish from that point.

- 5** You should go out to your Tumbler about three or four times per week to check the moisture, the smell of the materials, and to turn the drum. You will likely be out there that many times to add materials anyway, so it is a perfect time to check its progress and give it four to five easy spins.

The materials should be moist enough that they clump together when you squeeze them. If they are not you need to add a little water. If you squeeze them and water comes out, your materials are too moist and you should add some brown material. Additionally, if the unit has a foul smell to it, similar to ammonia, then you have too much green material and need to add some more brown.

- 6** The Back Porch ComposTumbler is specially designed to ensure the proper mixing of materials and air. You should give your unit four to five easy spins at least three times a week to keep the materials mixed. This will keep the composting process moving. The best time to do this is after you add materials and check the moisture and smell. This way you can do everything you need to do in one trip which makes using this unit even more convenient than other methods.

Always make sure that when you are done turning the unit the aerator is facing down and the door is at the top of the unit. This will allow any excess moisture to drain out through the bottom and will help you prevent getting odors in the unit.

Hint, you can collect any excess moisture that drains out of the unit and dilute it with 10 parts water to 1 part liquid and have a wonderful fertilizer for your plants—we like to call it compost tea!

Turning Your Back Porch ComposTumbler

- Put your fingers into the deep grooves
- Push down with your bottom hand
- Use your top hand to give the drum turning momentum
- Turn it about 5 complete revolutions at least 3–4 times a week
- Be sure the aerator is facing down and the door is on the top when finished turning



- 7** Your Back Porch ComposTumbler is designed to be a bottom-less garbage pail but in order to get a full load of finished compost you need to stop adding materials for a few weeks to finish off the existing materials. All you need to do during this period is monitor your moisture, smell, and give the unit a few spins three to four times per week and in four to six weeks you will have a finished load of compost.

How To Know When Your Compost Is Done

- 8** There are three major signs that your compost is finished or near completion.
- The first is a major loss of volume of the materials in your unit. Typically, if you are not adding large volumes of material at one time, your volume will drop by nearly 50 percent when it is done.



- The color is another indicator that the materials are done composting. When they turn to a dark brown or black color they are finished.
- Finally, when your compost has an earthy, wet mulch smell it is done.



5-Year Warranty

The Back Porch ComposTumbler® is warranted against any manufacturer's defects in materials or workmanship for 5 years from the date of delivery. We will replace any defective part, or the entire unit if necessary, at our expense. This warranty is given only to the original purchaser and is not transferable, nor does it apply to damage caused by misuse.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.