

faq's and tips

What's That Smell?

A cabbagey/earthy odour is normal whilst an ammonia whiff is temporary and related to composting grass. Putrid odours indicate an anaerobic bin which can be fixed by re-balancing the oxygen and moisture levels by mixing in woody material and paper/card. Seek further help if required.

Composting Grass

Adding too much grass can result in a slimy, smelly mess. Add grass in thin layers mixed with shredded paper. If adding more than 60ltrs at a time (large mower box) without any other garden waste, we recommend adding in an extra 1/10 to 1/20 (10-20%) of woody material to improve aeration.

Keep the Heat In

Always ensure that the walls are fitted together tightly with no gaps and secure using the ratchet strap(s). The lid should always be pushed down firmly into place.

Is the Heap too Dry?

Depending on the mix of materials being composted, sometimes the contents can become quite dry. Both water and oxygen are required to keep bacteria working so for a really dry heap add 5ltrs of tepid water to keep bacteria composting effectively.

What About Rats?

Avoid adding cooked food into the bin if you have an existing issue with rats. Rats can and will chew through almost anything including concrete.

Always Clean Up

Keep the HOTBIN clean, ensure no food waste is left around the base or surrounding area. Wipe around lid and wall seals to clear any loose waste or compost that may cause an imperfect fit. This will help contain odours which may attract vermin.

Best Place to Locate The Bin?

Sun or shade! Locate on a flat level surface with access to all four sides as this will aid assembly, disassembly and fixing the ratchet strap(s) into place.

How Much Waste To Keep it Hot?

Minimum of approx 20kg (40ltrs), that's 1 mower box or 1/2 a wheelbarrow.

Winter Composting

To jump start winter composting, add 5ltrs of boiling water to the heap or use a HDPE bottle filled with boiling water such as our kick start bottle (available to purchase).



let's start
composting!
grab a tea and read me



Welcome to **HOTBIN** Composting

Two person assembly recommended

health and safety

Composting is a natural process involving micro-organisms (bacteria and fungi). Humans have been composting safely for thousands of years, however we advise adhering to basic hygiene.

- Always wear gloves, cover cuts and wash hands after composting.
- **DO NOT** leave kitchen caddy, gloves or other composting equipment near food preparation surfaces.

- Take appropriate precautions if you suffer from asthma or related respiratory conditions e.g. wear a dust mask.
- Take care when handling hot water, thermometer & chopping waste.
- Check the temperature is at 40°C using an internal thermometer before adding cooked food waste and weeds.

Please read the online health and safety advice in the HOTBIN help section.

Need More Advice? We Are Here to Help!



Call free 0808 168 8499
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm



Sign up for the
free newsletter



Chat on the forum
and social media



HOTBIN advice
on YouTube

HOTBIN has a 3 year manufacturer's guarantee.

This excludes damage caused by wildlife and undue care.



HOTBIN Composting

email: help@hotbincomposting.com | web: hotbincomposting.com | call: 0808 168 8499

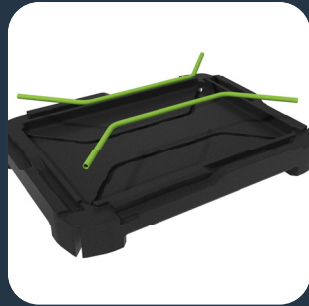
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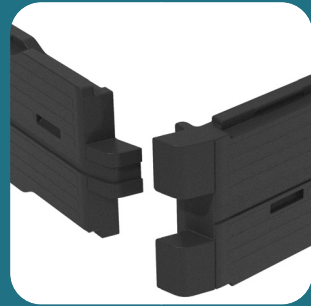
HOTBIN ASSEMBLY



watch



Locate the base on a flat, level surface with access to all four walls. Push the aeration pipes into place so they are flush with the corners of the base.



Align walls and push together - securing around the middle with the ratchet strap.

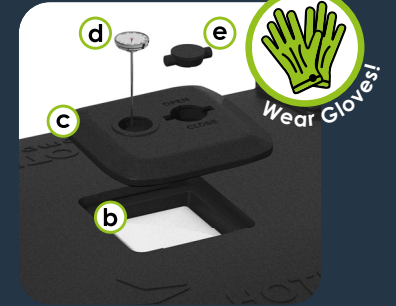


Lower one short wall into place, then the opposite side pushing down until all lock into place.

Repeat these steps to build the 700 litre model



Align the lid so that the keyhole (a) in the lid recess is on the left as you face the unit. Then push the lid down firmly into place.



Place the filter bag (b) into the lid recess, fit the lid panel (c) front edge first then situate the thermometer (d) and valve (e).

HOW TO START COMPOSTING

How to Use

Add green/brown garden or kitchen waste - see 'What Goes In' below for waste requiring 40c.

NB: Heat will be generated once a base layer of 30cm of waste is maintained inside the unit.

Add fresh waste 2-3 times a week mixed with shredded paper/card and woody material (see 'The Mix' table below). Lightly incorporate this with the top of the old waste.

Emptying Compost

Empty every 90 days or when the compost quality suits your needs.

To empty, remove the lid and set aside the top layer of uncomposted waste. Remove the walls, empty the bin and then add back into the bin the top layer of uncomposted material.

What Goes In*



OVER 40°C - Cooked food waste, weeds, pet food, biodegradable pet bedding

UNDER 40°C - Garden waste, fruit and vegetable scraps, saw dust, tea and coffee, chicken pellets, horse manure

CHECK °c not °f

*exhaustive list available online

Anatomy

Thermometer
View the temperature

Ratchet Strap
Keeps walls secure, do not over-tighten

Hand Grips
Helpful for locating and moving walls

Aeration Pipes
Located in all four corners - air is drawn in to aerate the heap



Aeration Valve
Open to a max 45° angle

The Mix: How Much Paper/Woody Material to Add



Paper/Card
Controls Moisture

Woody Material
Provides Aeration

Grass:	● Ratio 1/4 (25%)	● 1/10-1/20* (10-20%)
Garden Waste:	● N/A	● N/A
Food Waste:	● Ratio of 1/2 (50%)	● Ratio of 1/5 (20%)

***Important:** See 'Composting Grass' FAQ on the back page.

SUPERCHARGE IT!

Waste Digestion

Waste can be easy or hard for bacteria to digest which affects the heat cycle. Like a human diet, sugary foods provide a quick energy boost, but a banana will provide a slow release of energy over a longer time.

Chop and Shred Waste

Chopping increases the surface area available for bacteria to break down waste. The greater the surface area the faster the speed of breakdown and heat release.

Mix! Don't Layer Waste

Air circulates through the aeration pipes in the base and gets drawn up through the HOTBIN like a chimney. Layers of waste restrict air flow.

Top Tip: Break up any matted grass layers.

Dry and Wet Waste

Dry waste - hedge clippings, hard woody prunings/twigs. This helps with aeration.

Wet waste - food waste and grass. This needs shredded paper/card to offset moisture and prevent the HOTBIN becoming a soggy mess.

Speed Up the Base Layer

To speed up compost production, build the 30cm base layer quickly, aim to sustain this depth or more for continued heat production.