

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HOTBIN

Key things to watch out for

Hot composting in the **HOTBIN** requires active participation, you will need to;

1. FEED IT

The **HOTBIN** will not stay hot unless you feed it regularly

The **HOTBIN** is a hungry beast – it needs feeding to remain hot. Make sure you start your **HOTBIN** with plenty of easy to digest waste in the base layer. Then get yourself into a routine and empty 1 x caddy of food waste 2 x a week into your **HOTBIN** to help maintain a temperature of between 40-60°C. You will experience ups and downs in temperature as the bacteria use up the easy to digest waste. The trick to hot composting is to keep in the 40-60°C zone by ensuring you add a good mix of easy to digest waste in the **HOTBIN** regularly.

2. AID AERATION & ENSURE WASTE IS NOT 'TOO WET'

Or you could end up with a smelly, wet mess

Always keep the aeration valve set to minimum **see Fig 4b**. Do not layer waste, mix it up a bit so you do not restrict airflow. Add plenty of bulking agent, chopped up cardboard or shredded office paper along with other waste. The waste in the top of the **HOTBIN** will always look wet and steamy, but you should only be getting an espresso cup of leachate (dark liquid) coming out of the bottom aeration mesh plate. Too much leachate is a sure sign your waste is too wet. Wet waste blocks airflow and will restrict the temperature of your **HOTBIN**.

3. FOLLOW YOUR NOSE

Take action quickly

The waste in the top of the **HOTBIN** will give off a 'boiled cabbage' like odour when the lid is opened. If you start to smell a putrid odour act fast. One of the great features of the **HOTBIN** is how easy it is to fix a bin that is turning anaerobic - just add ½ bucket of chopped up cardboard and ½ bucket of bulking agent. Do not leave it to go fully anaerobic and water-logged as a two minute job will become a stinky 'dig out' and a restart!

4. WATCH THE TEMPERATURE

It's a dual dial

Please note both thermometers have a Fahrenheit and Celsius gauge 40-60°C = 104-140°F

The waste at the top of the **HOTBIN** will always be the hottest, the waste in the bottom of the **HOTBIN** will gradually lose heat as it matures and the bacteria use up all the high energy food. Use the long stemmed thermometer in the top 5cm of waste to get the most accurate reading. Once familiar with the **HOTBIN** the lid thermometer provides a temperature that can help you understand what is happening inside the **HOTBIN** and when the **HOTBIN** needs feeding. Your **HOTBIN** will need to be over half full and composting over 40°C inside to make the best use of the lid thermometer.

If you are not interested in recycling food waste you can compost just garden waste in a **HOTBIN**. You may not achieve the higher temperatures (except when composting grass) but overall your waste should compost quicker.

If your **HOTBIN** is not getting hot please check the online FAQ or email help@hotbincomposting.com