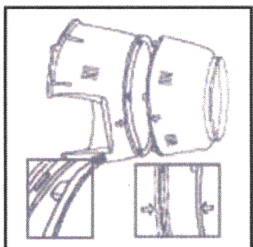
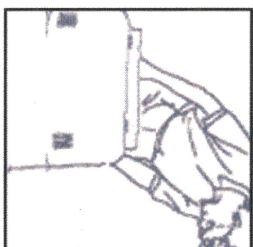


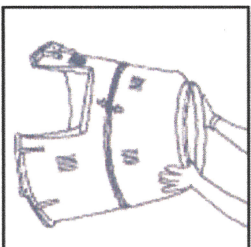
**Step 1**  
Twist and remove the lid.



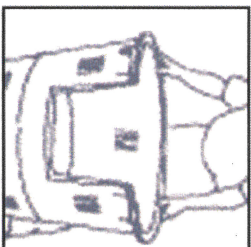
**Step 2**  
Place the bottom section on the ground, and set the top section on top of it.  
**IMPORTANT:** Make sure that the arrows on the top and bottom sections line up.  
Also, the bottom of the top section should sit in the groove on the top of the bottom section.



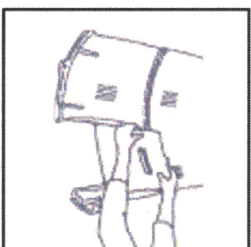
**Step 3**  
Check the outside and inside with your hand to ensure the 6 tabs line up with the 6 slots.



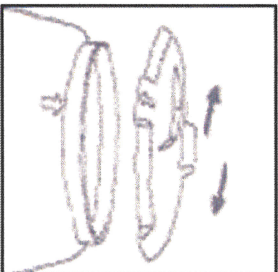
**Step 4**  
To ensure the tabs are completely in the slots, push down firmly on the two halves of the Earth Machine™ starting at the arrows and working fully around the compost bin rim.



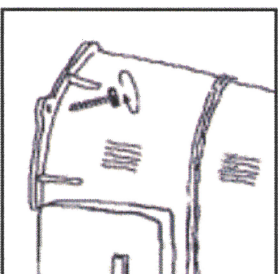
**Step 5**  
To confirm that all 6 tabs are in place, turn the unit upside down and make a visual check.



**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.

### 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 three ways 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.

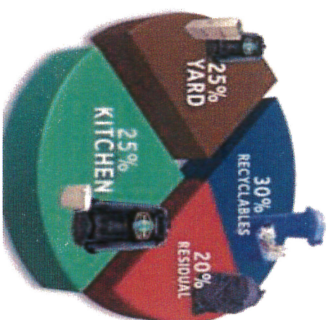
**TIP:** You can make your own compost screen in minutes with 1/4 inch hardware cloth and a wood frame.

### The Big Picture

#### 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.



## THE FOUR SEASONS OF COMPOSTING

THE EARTH MACHINE

### Spring

Get well and add some soil to kick-start your compost. Dig out any finished compost from the bottom to use in your lawn or garden.

### Summer

Keep your composter humming by stirring it frequently and covering fresh material with straw. If the compost looks dry, add some water.

### Fall

Harvest! Tweak Clean out your compost and dig the finished material into your garden. If possible, save some leaves to add to the composter during the year.

### Winter

With the colder temperatures, your compost will decompose slower. Don't worry, let it fill. Nice spring comes it will compost rapidly.

### 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.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Will my compost smell?

Properly running compost bins should not give off any unpleasant odors — if anything, they should be almost sweet-smelling. If you do notice any unpleasant odors, mix it well with a compost turner or pitchfork to get more air into the pile, and add some more "browns" (e.g. leaves) to dry it out. Don't add piles of grass clippings all at once, as they will give off an ammonia-like smell. Always make sure not to put any meat, dairy, oil or fat products in your Earth Machine™ Compost Bin.

## How long before I have compost?

Most people find that they can harvest finished compost from the bottom of their pile every 4 to 6 months or so. However, if you have a good mix of "greens" and "browns", stir thoroughly and frequently, and keep it from getting too wet or dry, you will find you can "cook" a batch of compost in as little as 6 weeks.

## What do I do to get rid of fruit flies?

During the summer, you may be greeted by fruit flies when you open your Kitchen Collector or Earth Machine™. To keep them at bay in the kitchen, make sure to secure the lid latch on your Kitchen Collector tightly and empty it frequently. At your Earth Machine™, add leaves or a thin layer of soil each time you add fresh material.

## What can I do to keep raccoons, squirrels, rodents and dogs out of my Earth Machine™?

Occasionally, an eager pest will decide to take a liking to your Earth Machine™, so here are a few things to help keep those critters away:

- Always make sure not to put any meat, dairy, oil or fat in your Earth Machine™.
- Bury fresh material in the compost pile
- Keep the harvest door fastened by placing a stick through the matching holes in the door and Earth Machine™.
- Place bricks or flat stones around the base of the Earth Machine™.
- Add dog hair to the compost

If the problem persists, you can line the bottom of the Earth Machine™ with a layer of chicken wire.

## If my Earth Machine™ fills up too quickly, what should I do?

Use your Earth Machine™ primarily for kitchen waste, as yard waste will fill it up in a hurry. If you generate too much kitchen waste for one Earth Machine™, consider getting a second one.

## How should I handle yard waste?

Consider buying or making a large yard waste compost bin, and keep it close to your Earth Machine™ so you have a ready source of cover material. It is helpful to keep some bags of leaves aside for use throughout the year.

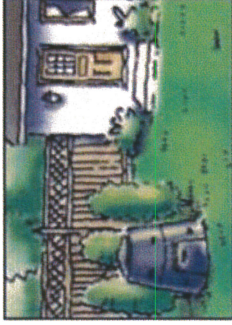
## How moist should my compost pile be?

The rule of thumb is to keep the material as moist as a wrung-out sponge. In arid climates, this means you will have to periodically add water to the pile, or make a point of adding wet materials to the Kitchen Collector (e.g. leftover coffee). In rainy areas or seasons, you may need to add dry leaves, aerate the pile with a pitchfork or compost turner, or leave the lid of compost off on sunny days.

## Is there a way to make winter composting in the snowbelt easier?

Hopefully, your Earth Machine™ is located close to your back door so you don't have to shovel a long path to it. If not, leave an old garbage can next to the back door and empty your Kitchen Collector directly into it. Once spring comes you can just add it to your Earth Machine™, together with some leaves or other browns.

## 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



### YARD GREENS

- Flowers
- Vegetables
- Plant trimmings
- Hedge clippings
- Grass (small amounts)



### KITCHEN BROWNS

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



### 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 carbon and reduce the chance of odors and fruit flies. Then put the lid back on and let it "cook".

**TIP:** Keep the material in your Earth Machine™ about as moist as a wrung-out sponge.