

MUNCHIE™

65-GALLON COMPOST BIN

from gardens alive!®



Specially designed for easy composting

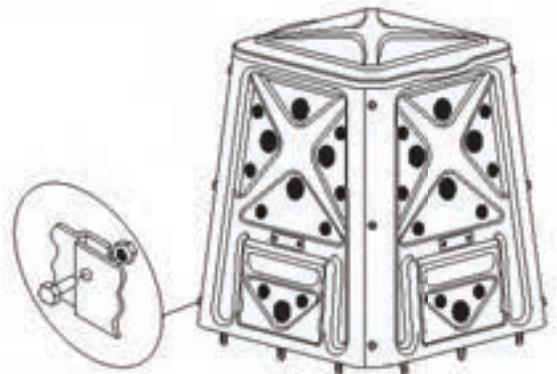
- Made of sturdy, high-impact plastic, coated with UV protectant
- Lid lifts off for easy filling and snaps down securely
- Includes 4 doors to access finished compost from all sides

Homemade compost in a *FLASH*

The black color and closed design retain heat, plus the ventilation holes allow for better airflow—creating the perfect conditions for quicker composting. The open floor lets in worms and microorganisms, which makes the process go even faster.

Easy assembly—no tools required!

1. Make sure each of the 4 side panels overlap properly.
2. Secure with the 12 sets of bolts and nuts. Do not overtighten.
3. Press the feet of the bin into the ground to help anchor it, particularly when it's empty or in a windy area. If the ground is hard, use a spade to create "slots" for the feet.



COMPOSTING GUIDE

Air—Composting microbes need air to break down the material. Adding straw and turning the pile help create better airflow. If your compost doesn't have good airflow, it will smell bad!

Water—A thin film of water should coat every particle in the bin so microbes can thrive and spread. Moisten dry material, such as autumn leaves or straw, before mixing it into the pile.

Food—Strive to feed your pile proper proportions of carbon and nitrogen. Because everything in a pile has its own carbon-to-nitrogen ratio, calculating these proportions can be difficult. Try a 2:1 ratio of 'greens' to 'browns.' Greens are fresh plant materials such as kitchen waste, garden clippings and manure, which are high in nitrogen and moisture. Browns are dry and dead plant materials such as straw, dried weeds, autumn leaves and sawdust; they tend to be bulky, higher in carbon and promote aeration. For every two buckets of greens, you'll want one well-packed bucket of browns. You'll find your own preferred balance as you go along, but **2 parts green material to 1 part brown material** is a good way to get started.



COMPOST THIS:



GREEN MATERIAL (nitrogen)

Lawn and garden clippings

- These nitrogen-rich materials tend to mat down, so mix with aerating ingredients such as straw or wood chips.

Kitchen waste (*fruit and vegetable peels, rinds, tea bags, coffee grounds*)

- These soft, moist ingredients should be mixed with drier and bulkier materials.

Manure (*from horses, cows, sheep and poultry **NOT** dogs or cats*)

- Fresh manure contains lots of nitrogen and heats up the compost, which accelerates the process.



BROWN MATERIAL (carbon)

Dry straw and untreated paper

- These carbon-rich elements help with airflow, so softer things like kitchen waste and lawn clippings can break down easier. Wet down for faster composting.

Dried weeds, leaves and garden waste

- Dried, dead garden waste is a good source of aeration and carbon. Avoid weeds with seeds, which may survive composting and bring more weeds into your garden.

Wood chips and sawdust

- These help with carbon, texture and aeration, but contain little nitrogen and decay slowly. Use sparingly—especially thick wood chips.



DON'T COMPOST THIS:



Chemically treated wood products

- For sawdust and wood chips, be sure of the origin. You don't want chemically treated products in your compost.

Meat, bones, dairy and fatty food waste

- These attract pests and can block aeration that composting microbes need.

Noxious weeds

- If you compost these, make sure they're completely dead and dry.

Pet waste

- Dog and cat feces may carry diseases that can infect humans, so never use these in composting.

OTHER TIPS

Wintertime—Your compost pile may go dormant in cold winters, but it will start up again with the springtime thaw.

Choosing a location—Position your composter on bare soil with good drainage. You'll want a warm, easily accessible location.

Put earthworms to work—Adding in about 1,000 worms will promote the generation of microbes, aerate the pile and leave behind castings, which help fertilize plants.



Want more information on composting methods? Visit the 65-Gallon Composter page on our website.