

# TUMBLING COMPOSTERS

Thank you for purchasing an Upcycle Tumbling Composter from the Washtenaw County Conservation District. Your purchase helps support the work of the District in Washtenaw County.

Please use the information below to get started composting with your new tumbling composter.

Remember that your composter is constructed from USED food-grade barrels and materials. It will have some scuff marks and scratches from shipping and handling.

The barrels are inspected and cleaned, then modified. There are no significant scuffs or scratches which would harm the structural integrity of the barrel for use as a composter and lead to any leakage.



## HOW TO GET STARTED COMPOSTING

1. Set up your composter in an area where it will receive the maximum amount of direct sunlight in order to achieve optimum performance. Less sunlight means longer processing time.
2. We recommend you use a 50-50 mix of Kitchen (Green) and Yard (Brown) material in your tumbling composter. **Do not use soil, starter, accelerator, fertilizer or any other material other than yard and kitchen scraps.**
3. You can start adding kitchen scraps as soon as you have your composter assembled. When you toss in your first amount of kitchen (**Green**) scraps, see what is in the composter and add the same amount of yard (**Brown**) material.
4. Every couple of days, tumble the composter 3 or 4 times around.
5. Always stop the composter so the lid is up.
6. When the composter is full to the same level inside as the top of the legs on the outside, STOP adding Material and let the composter finish. The tumbler will break up the compost pile as it is turned so it does not clump. It will also allow air to flow through the compost when the lid is up.
7. Check the material inside the composter every couple of weeks to make sure the compost pile is not too dry. Add water if needed. The material should be **moist** but **not wet**.
8. When the compost is finished it will have the consistency of heavy loamy soil.
9. Dump the compost material into a wagon, cart, wheelbarrow or on the ground and work it into your garden soil, flower beds or other places you use compost. Then start another batch.
10. The first couple of batches will take about 5-7 weeks. Each successive batch will compost faster and you will start seeing about a 4-week turnaround time per batch.

For additional information about composting, visit the web sites listed below:

Beginner's Guide: [http://www.compost-info-guide.com/beginner\\_guide.htm](http://www.compost-info-guide.com/beginner_guide.htm)

How To Compost: <http://www.howtocompost.org/>



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