

Filling the composter - What you need to know



In order to get the best results from your **Quick Composter 500**, it's important to fill and manage it properly. Here are some helpful steps:

1. Empty Waste Properly

If you're using biodegradable liners or compostable bags, tip the contents into the composter first, then place the empty bag in separately. This prevents clumping and allows air to circulate better, all of which supports the composting process. Whole bags, left sealed, can slow down decomposition.

2. Add Bulking Material Generously

After each waste addition, cover it with Biolan Bulking Material. Use roughly one-third to one-half the volume of the waste you've added. This dry, fibrous material helps balance moisture, supports airflow, and prevents odours. If your waste is particularly wet (e.g. cooked food scraps), adding more bedding will help maintain the right conditions inside the composter. Excess moisture can be drained to a seep canister, available as a low-cost option.

3. Keep Your Food Caddy Tidy

Before filling your kitchen caddy or biowaste bin, sprinkle a small amount of bulking material in the bottom. This helps soak up any liquids and keeps the bin cleaner, making emptying easier and more hygienic.

4. Add Waste Little and Often

Try to add waste several times a week rather than letting it build up. Regular additions help keep the composting process active and allow the contents to break down steadily. This is especially important in colder weather, when the internal temperature of the compost can drop, if not maintained.

5. Watch the Temperature

Composting generates heat naturally. If the temperature inside the composter is warmer than the outside air, turn the inlet air valve to 100 to improve ventilation. If you notice the compost mass cooling down too much, reduce the setting gradually until the heat stabilises. A steady, warm temperature encourages efficient breakdown.

6. Mix the Top Layer Only

Now and then, mix the compost to gently turn over the top 20–30 cms of material. This helps to blend in fresh waste and ensure even decomposition. You don't need to mix after every addition - especially if you're using plenty of bulking material, as this helps maintain airflow naturally. Compost mixing tools are available as options.

7. Don't Disturb the Bottom Layer

Avoid mixing right down to the bottom of the composter. The lower layers contain older compost in its final stage of decomposition, and thereby cooler in temperature. Disturbing it can lower the overall temperature and slow the composting of newer material near the top.



Emptying the composter - What steps are involved

Emptying your composter regularly is key to keeping the composting process active and efficient. It frees up space, introduces fresh oxygen, and helps maintain the right conditions, especially in colder months. Follow these simple steps to empty the composter safely and effectively.

1. Know When To Empty

The composter should be emptied regularly throughout the year. It's best to wait until the composter is nearly full before emptying. During warmer months, you can safely remove up to half of the contents at a time. However, in colder conditions, it's better to empty smaller amounts less frequently to help retain internal heat and avoid slowing down decomposition. Each emptying introduces a burst of oxygen into the compost mass, which can even help raise the internal temperature, particularly beneficial during the colder seasons.

2. Remove the Finished Compost

Open the lower hatch (the emptying door) and use a spade to remove the mature compost from the bottom of the unit. This compost should be dark, crumbly, and earthy-smelling, a sign it's well-rotted and ready to use. To ensure the hatch closes smoothly, clean up any remaining material around the hatch edges. Emptying trays are available as low cost options.



3. Check and Clean the Lower Section

Lift the liquid separator plate carefully and remove any compacted or wet material beneath it. If used, check that the seep liquid hose is not blocked and that any excess liquid can still drain away freely. A clogged hose can cause waterlogging and disrupt the composting process. If the compost you've removed was quite wet, sprinkle a couple of spadefuls of **Bulking Material** into the bottom of the composter to help soak up moisture and rebalance the mix.

4. Resettle the Compost

After emptying, gently press down the top layer of compost using the Biolan Compost Mixer or a spade. Start from the corners and work towards the centre to help the material settle evenly. Take care not to damage the air channel in the middle of the composter: this is essential for maintaining good airflow and supporting the composting process.

5. Don't Forget the Liquid Container

Lastly, if used, check the seep liquid container (and empty it, if it's getting full). This nutrient-rich liquid can be diluted and used as a natural fertiliser, or disposed of responsibly if it's too strong or odorous.

Full documentation, installation guidelines and operating manuals are also available as downloads on our websites www.plasticsol.com & <https://shop.plasticsol.com>



Quick Composter 500 - key components

