



Garden Composter Accessories

Compost Magic

All Natural

Compost Magic is a 100% natural bulking material made from dried and compressed coconut fiber. Bricks weigh about 1 1/4 lb (600g), and are packed 6 to a box.

How it Works

Put a Compost Magic brick in a container and add 1 gallon (4L) of water. The brick absorbs the water, and expands to 2 Gallons (8-9 L) in volume.

When added to a SUN-MAR Garden Composter, Compost Magic speeds up composting in 4 ways:

Keeps Compost Moist

Compost Magic has outstanding water retention properties which helps keep the compost moist.

Maintains Compost Porosity

Compost Magic creates free air space in the compost. This maintains porosity and provides an oxygen rich environment for aerobic microbes.

Provides a Carbon Source

Compost Magic provides a carbon source where there is too much green (nitrogen rich) material.

Breaks up Waste

Compost Magic assists in breaking up the waste as the drum rotates, thereby increasing the surface area available to aerobic bacteria.



Compost Swift

Compost Swift is a natural product containing enzymes and bacteria, especially selected to speed up composting activity in Sun-Mar Garden Composters.

It is supplied in a 32 oz bottle with a special dosing meter to dispense up to 1oz at a time.

Compost Swift is a concentrate to be diluted 1 part concentrate to 8 parts water (1 oz. to 1 cup water). It is best applied to the compost mass at the rate of 1-6 cups every 2 weeks depending on compost volume. The drum should be rotated after every application.

To Order - Please contact your local SUN-MAR dealer





Optimising Your Compost

If composting conditions are optimised your kitchen/garden waste will decompose quickly and provide a constant supply of compost for your garden. The key factors in optimising the activity of aerobic bacteria are: oxygen, moisture, waste size, the carbon/nitrogen ratio and temperature.

Oxygen

Aerobic bacteria grow and live in the presence of oxygen and are very efficient in breaking down waste. Your compost should be aerated in order to encourage aerobic bacterial growth. This is done by rotating the drum three complete revolutions when waste is added or twice per week.

Moisture

For best results, your compost should always be damp. Too dry and decomposition will slow or cease. Too wet, and the free air space is eliminated and the aerobic bacteria lack the oxygen they need to survive. To maintain moisture, when adding kitchen/garden waste, add a container of water equal to the volume of the waste.

Waste Size

If large pieces of waste are added to the compost, the surface area available for the bacteria to work on is reduced, and composting will be much slower than if the waste is chopped into smaller pieces.

Carbon/Nitrogen Ratio

Almost all organic material will compost, but it is better if you can achieve a good balance of 2 parts carbon-rich materials (browns) to 1 part nitrogen-rich waste (greens).

Adding too much brown will slow the composting process, while adding too much green (nitrogen) will cause the compost to smell. If there is odor, adjust the carbon/nitrogen balance or turn the drum more frequently.

Some carbon-rich (brown) materials

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Compost Magic | Pencil shavings |
| Peat moss | Tea bags |
| Wood shavings | Potting soil |
| Dried shredded leaves | Chopped hay or straw |
| Dried grass clippings | Sawdust |
| Nutshells | Dryer lint |
| Coffee grounds | Shredded paper napkins |
| Shredded paper | |

Some nitrogen-rich (green) materials

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|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Fruit & vegetable peelings | Floor sweepings |
| Egg shells | Pet hair |
| Old pasta | Fruit pits |
| Cooked rice | Houseplant trimmings |
| Tossed salad | Old bread |
| Flower bouquets | Aquarium plants |
| Jell-O | |

Temperature

Optimal composting temperatures range between 70-100 F (21-38 C). If the compost becomes too cold (below 55 F or 15 C), decomposition will slow or stop completely. If you are in a warm area, keep the composter in a shaded place to make sure it does not get too warm inside the drum.

Other Considerations

Bacteria are an important asset to your compost. To encourage good bacterial growth, we recommend Compost Swift be added once per week. Simply add one ounce of Compost Swift to one cup of water and sprinkle in the drum.

Another source of bacteria for your compost is existing compost or top soil.

You may notice that various other creatures, like insects, fungi or worms may be calling your garden composter home. These creatures are beneficial to your compost and will help it break down quicker.