

Earth Tub Operating Instructions

1. Starting a Batch

Add woody bulking material such as shavings or chips until the tub is half full.

2. Adding Food Waste

- Open the hatch on the Earth Tub and add pre-sorted food waste.
- Remove any contaminants (plastic/meats/cheese/oils/etc.) if they can be easily sorted.
- Hard foods such as pineapples, stale loaves of bread, etc., should be chopped to two inches or less prior to disposing in the Earth Tub.
- Close the loading hatch before mixing.

3. Mixing the Materials

- Turn on the auger motor
- Make sure the auger is at the outside position. (NEVER MOVE AUGER OR TURN LID WHEN AUGER IS TURNED OFF.)
- Slowly rotate the lid in the counter-clockwise direction for one complete rotation.
- Turn the black crank handle to move the auger to the inside position.
- Slowly turn the powered auger/lid assembly in a clockwise direction for one complete rotation, be sure to end the rotation 12" to 18" from the starting position.
- Crank the black handle to move the auger back to the outside position.
- A complete mix should be performed at least two to three times per week.

4. Checking the Mix

- Open hatch and examine compost mix. The material in the Earth Tub should be the consistency of a wrung out sponge. The ideal temperature is 120-140F
- If material is too wet, add more bulking agent.
- If material is too dry that's OK! It will get wetter as you continue to add food waste.

3. The Compost "Baking" Phase

- When the Earth Tub has been loaded to its capacity, no additional food waste should be added to the unit.
- Allow the compost to actively compost for 3 weeks in the Earth Tub.
- During this time, material mixing should continue one to two times weekly.

4. Unloading and Curing the Compost

- Once the compost has finished cooking, it looks like rich brown soil and is ready to be unloaded.
- Place a tarp or container on the ground below and outside of the two side discharge doors.
- Turn on the auger and watch it discharge the compost out of the side doors.
- Sweep the auger back and forth across the doorways to discharge the majority of the material.

- Make sure a small amount of compost remains to serve as a bulking agent and microbial starter for the next cycle.
- The compost could be used directly as a thin mulch or cured for further stabilization.
- To cure, the compost should remain in an undisturbed pile for approximately 30 days before use.
- The compost can be screened, if desired, to produce a more refined compost product and recover any remaining bulking agent.

From the Green Mountain Technology Web Site at <http://www.gmt-organic.com/et-ops.html>.