

Composters vs. Digesters

Using a composter and a digester in your backyard can help you sustainably divert all food waste and generate nourishment for your garden!



Where should I put my Composter?

- Exposed to the sun
- Convenient and accessible spot
- Well-drained area
- Close to a water source for maintenance

How do I manage it through the seasons?

- Spring: empty the composter, use the finished compost in your garden and start a new pile with the material that is still breaking down.
- Summer: keep your composter in top condition by layering and stirring.

- Fall: if compost is available, harvest the finished compost and use as mulch in your garden. Continue to layer and stir.
- Winter: continue to add kitchen scraps regularly.

How do I start composting?

- Churn the soil where the composter will be placed
- After installation, place a layer of small branches at the bottom for air and drainage purposes
- Place kitchen scraps and dried yard waste in layers
- Put in a layer of finished compost or garden soil to introduce microorganisms
- Mix the pile and add organics as often as possible

Where should I put my Digester?

- Exposed to the sun
- Convenient and accessible spot
- Well-drained area
- Area where you can dig a 3 foot hole
- Away from your well, septic system and any underground wire/cable

How do I start my Digester?

- Dig down 3 feet to install the digester, then start adding kitchen waste. Limit meat/bone/fish input for the first 4-6 weeks until the digester is established.

How do I manage it through the seasons?

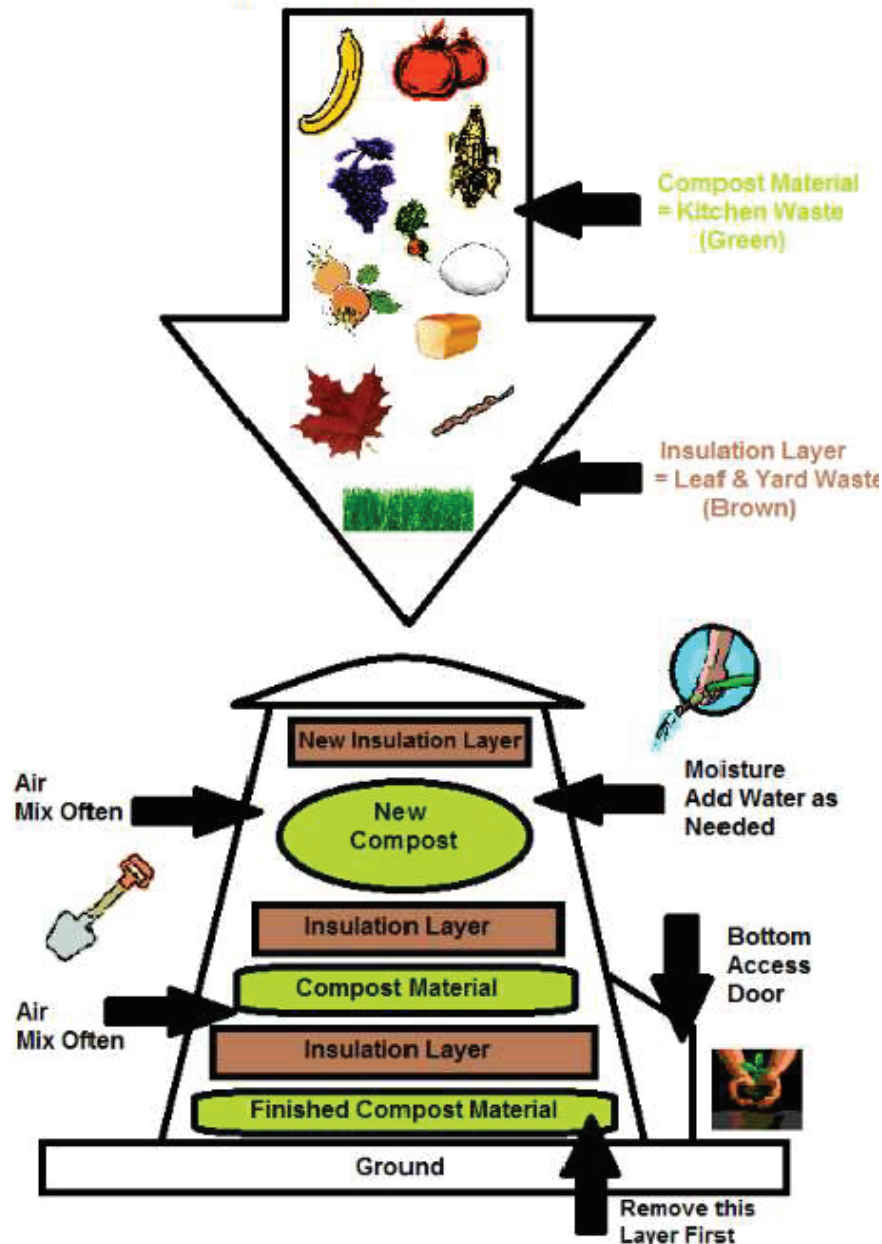
- Digesters do not need any maintenance. Simply add your kitchen waste and secure the lid tightly.
- If the material in the digester isn't breaking down fast enough, use an enzyme revitalizer (used for septic systems) to speed up the breakdown of materials, or move the digester to a new location.
- Do not allow it to fill above ground level or else it becomes very tricky to move.



Composter

Do Not Compost

BBQ ash or charcoal, crabgrass, dairy products, meat, fish, or bones, oils, pet waste, plants treated with pesticides, treated wood ash or sawdust, vacuum cleaner lint, weeds in seed, diapers.



Digester

Avoid

BBQ ash or charcoal, crabgrass, diapers, plants treated with pesticides.

Do not fill above ground level or it will be difficult to move.

