



## WELCOME TO COMPOSTING!

Environmentally conscious people everywhere are discovering composting as a rewarding way of beautifying their property while reducing pressures on overtaxed landfill sites.

**GARDEN GOURMET** is a composter for today's enlightened gardener – a technically and environmentally sound piece of equipment architecturally designed to enhance any landscape.

Composters turn organic waste material into a valuable resource – rewarding your composting efforts with an abundant supply of nutrient rich humus for a beautiful and healthy garden.

By purchasing a **GARDEN GOURMET** backyard composter you are joining the millions of people worldwide who know their conservation efforts will make a difference.

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## WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is a natural process in which bacteria and other organisms break down kitchen and yard waste into humus – a rich, dark, soil-like material that enriches gardens, boosts lawn fertility and retards soil erosion.

## WHY COMPOST?

We live on a small planet populated by millions of people, producing millions of tons of garbage. If action is not taken now to reduce garbage, more and more of the planet will be replaced by landfill sites in order to cope with these huge amounts of waste.

Backyard composting is an easy, effective way of reducing your garbage. It can divert one third to one half of your curbside waste from landfill sites into the compost heap.

Composting also transforms kitchen scraps and yard waste into a valuable environmental commodity – a rich, chemical free fertilizer that costs nothing to produce and offers a bounty limited only by the size of your garden.

## WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED?

Almost all your organic kitchen scraps and yard waste can be composted, including fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags, coffee grounds and coffee filters, bread (with no spreads on it) and plain pasta (with no sauces or oils). You can also compost peanut shells, peat moss, garden scraps, wet leaves, fresh lawn clippings, corn cobs and corn husks (although corn usually takes a full season to decompose).

This organic material (also known as **green** material) should ideally be matched with a similar amount of **brown** material such as woodchips, hay, twigs, wood ashes, dried-out leaves and dried-out lawn clippings.

Other organic material that can be safely composted includes clean cotton or wool rags, dryer lint, string, rope, hair (untreated) and paper towels (with no oil or sauce on them).

The smaller the material is chopped, the more quickly it will compost. Wet leaves take a longer time to decompose, but if they are dried out first, mixed with kitchen waste and then put into the composter, their decomposition will accelerate.

## WHAT CANNOT BE COMPOSTED?

- Meat, dairy products and food containing oils or sauces can attract pests and therefore should not be composted.
- Pet waste is not recommended for composting as it may contain organisms that humans should avoid.
- Inorganic materials such as plastic, metal, rubber, glass, stone, chemicals or greases will not compost.

## WHERE SHOULD THE GARDEN GOURMET BE LOCATED?

The best location for your composter is one that's convenient for you. The GARDEN GOURMET is an attractive piece of outdoor equipment that will complement your garden. Place it in sun or shade – either will work. But, to speed up the composting process and to avoid the pile becoming too wet, a sunny spot is advisable.

## HOW DO I START COMPOSTING?

For best results, follow these easy steps:

- 1) Gather compostable kitchen waste (also referred to as *green* material) in a plastic container.
- 2) At the bottom of the composter, place a layer of twigs or sticks about 3" to 4" high. This will allow air to circulate at the bottom of the pile and help to prevent odours.
- 3) Place kitchen waste onto the twigs and then cover the kitchen waste with a layer of *brown* material. (See page 2 for examples of brown material). The kitchen waste and brown material can also be mixed together if desired.
- 4) Sprinkle some soil over top. Soil adds micro-organisms to the compost, helping to speed up decomposition. It also helps to keep away insects and pests.

## POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Each time you empty kitchen scraps into the compost, an equal amount of brown material should also be added.
- It is recommended to mix the pile each time new material is added to ensure proper aeration and to prevent odours.
- The pile should not be too wet or dry – just as moist as a squeezed out sponge.

## HOW IS PROPER AERATION ACHIEVED?

For composting to occur, a combination of organic waste, air and moisture must be present. Although a lack of air will produce a very soggy compost pile, too much air can slow down the composting process by over-cooling the pile. You can control the airflow and avoid these two extremes by adjusting the size of the openings in the side panels of the GARDEN GOURMET. To increase circulation, cut through the webbed vents in the side panels with a sharp knife or a saw, one vent at a time (see photos). Cut the top and bottom vents first.

**NOTE:** Compost heaps more commonly suffer from lack of aeration rather than over-cooling.

## WILL THE COMPOST PILE GET HOT?

Decomposing organic waste usually generates heat. This is desirable because the more heat, the faster the composting process takes place. Ideally, your compost pile should be in the 40°–55°C (104°–150°F) range. GARDEN GOURMET has been designed to attract heat and hold it in.

**NOTE:** If your compost pile does not become hot, it will still work, but at a slower rate.

## HOW LONG DOES COMPOSTING TAKE?

Composting time varies according to climatic conditions. The process can take six months to one year depending on the temperature and the material added to the pile. For example, composting will decrease during the winter in colder climates when only kitchen waste is available.

## WHEN IS THE COMPOST READY?

Compost is ready when it is dark in colour, moist yet crumbly to the touch, and has an earthy smell to it.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH FINISHED COMPOST?

Compost provides a fertilizer rich in nutrients that can be added to your natural soil, or to your flower and vegetable gardens to enhance plant growth. There is usually a significant improvement in the harvest when compost has been mixed in with your garden.

## POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

- INSECTS

Sometimes compost attracts flies. This usually occurs when kitchen scraps are left on top of the heap. It can be remedied by burying the food in the pile or by adding a layer of soil on top of the heap and by turning the pile each time you add waste.

- ODOURS

A well aerated compost pile should not smell. However, if occasional odours do occur, there are various solutions:

- 1) Add a layer of soil or garden lime.
- 2) Be sure to aerate the pile by turning it approximately every 2 to 3 days.
- 3) Add brown or dried-out material to balance the green material (since odours usually occur from too much kitchen waste and fresh lawn clippings rather than too much brown material).

- WET COMPOST PILE

A soggy compost pile often occurs in the spring because there is not enough brown material available over the winter to add to the compost. As well, all the kitchen waste added over the winter begins to thaw, resulting in an extremely soggy compost heap. You can avoid this by leaving the lid off the composter and aerating (ie. turning) the pile daily. The situation can also be remedied by adding only brown material and *NOT* adding kitchen waste to the pile until it begins to dry up (this should take 1 to 2 weeks if the pile is aerated daily).

- DRY COMPOST PILE

Although infrequent, sometimes the compost pile becomes too dry. This is usually because there is too much brown material. The pile can be made moist by adding more kitchen scraps or by simply adding small amounts of water to the pile.

## FEATURES OF THE GARDEN GOURMET

- GARDEN GOURMET is constructed from recycled plastic materials – nothing will rot or rust.
- The modular snap-fit design makes it easy to assemble.
- GARDEN GOURMET is versatile – the capacity can be increased with a convenient expansion kit (see page 25).
- The unit is complete as purchased. No additional hardware is necessary.
- GARDEN GOURMET is UV stable – the black colour absorbs and contains heat, enhancing the composting process.
- Airflow can be controlled by modifying the size of the vents.
- The large peaked lid overlaps the unit, making GARDEN GOURMET resistant to pests.
- The sliding door at the base of the unit makes compost removal fast and efficient.
- Guaranteed against all manufacturing defects for one year.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS BEGIN ON PAGE 19

## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Since the GARDEN GOURMET uses the Doubllok Construction System, no tools are required for assembly. Before you begin, check inside your box to ensure that you have all the pieces listed in Figure 1.

- Select a convenient, level site with good drainage, preferably in the sun.
- During assembly, place all panels with the solid side out to properly engage the Doubllok mechanism.

## INSTRUCTIONS D'ASSEMBLAGE

Comme le GARDEN GOURMET utilise le mode de construction «Doubllok», aucun outil n'est nécessaire pour l'assemblage. Assurez-vous simplement que toutes les pièces énumérées à la figure 1 sont incluses dans la boîte avant de procéder.

- Choisissez un endroit plat convenable où l'eau ne s'accumule pas, préféablement au soleil.
- Assurez-vous que vous placez le côté plein des panneaux à l'extérieur pour permettre au mécanisme «Doubllok» de s'enclencher.

## INSTRUCCIONES DE ENSAMBLAJE

Debido al hecho que el GARDEN GOURMET usa el Sistema de Construcción Doubllok, no se requieren herramientas para su ensamblaje. Antes de que comience, examine el interior de su caja para verificar que tenga todas las piezas que se enumeran en la Figura 1.

- Seleccione un lugar nivelado conveniente con buen drenaje, preferiblemente soleado.
- Durante el ensamblaje, coloque todos los paneles con la superficie sólida hacia afuera para acoplar de manera apropiada el mecanismo Doubllok.

Figure 1 / Figura 1

## The Pieces • Les pièces • Las Piezas

A

x 1

- Lid
- Couvercle
- Tapa

B

x 2

- Lid Flap  
Lid and flaps are shipped assembled
- Rabat du couvercle  
Le couvercle et les rabats sont expédiés déjà assemblés
- Lengüeta de la tapa  
La tapa y las lengüetas vienen armadas

C

x 4

- Anchor Stake
- Piquets d'ancrage
- Postes de Anclaje

D

x 4

- Quarter Panel
- Quarts de panneau
- Paneles de 1/4 Tamaño

E

x 4

- Half Panel
- Demi-panneaux
- Paneles de Medio Tamaño

F

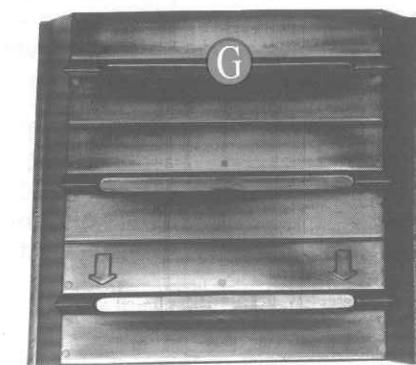
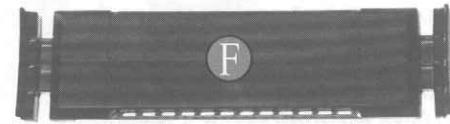
x 20

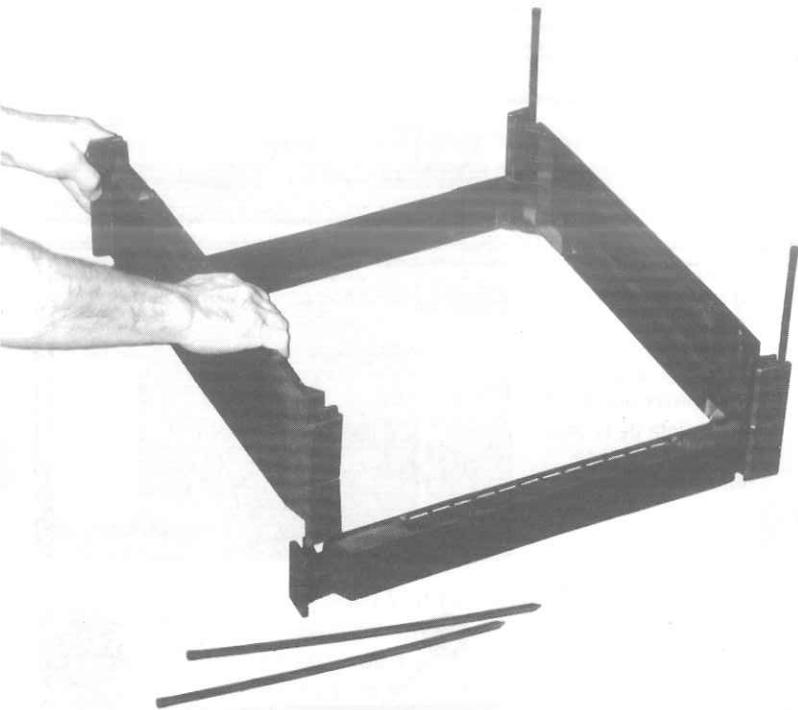
- Full Panel
- Panneaux entiers
- Paneles Completos

G

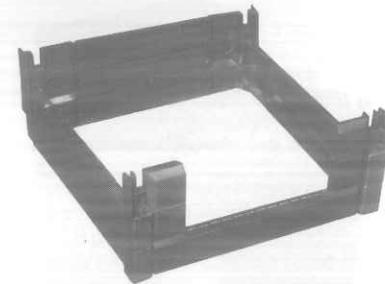
x 1

- Door Panel
- Porte
- Panel de Puerta



**2**

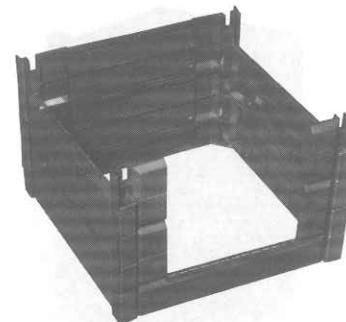
- Place 2 HALF PANELS (with U-slots facing up) to form the front and rear sides of the base. Connect them with 2 FULL PANELS by aligning their U-slots and snapping them into place. Insert anchor stakes through the corner holes and into the ground, if desired.
- Placez 2 DEMI-PANNEAUX (les fentes en «U» doivent vous faire face) de façon à former les côtés avant et arrière de la base. Reliez ces demi-panneaux à l'aide de 2 PANNEAUX ENTIERS en alignant les fentes en «U» et en les emboîtant. Passez les piquets d'ancrage à travers les orifices ménagés dans les coins et piquez-les dans le sol, si désiré.
- Coloque dos PANELES DE MEDIO TAMAÑO (con las ranuras en U hacia arriba) para formar los lados anterior y posterior de la base. Conéctelos con 2 PANELES COMPLETOS, alineando las ranuras en U y colocándolas a presión en su lugar. Inserte los postes de anclaje por los orificios de las esquinas y en el suelo, si así lo desea.

**3**

• Place 2 QUARTER PANELS above the front HALF PANEL to form the doorway and then add 1 FULL PANEL above the rear HALF PANEL.

• Placez 2 QUARTS DE PANNEAU au-dessus du DEMI-PANNEAU avant afin de créer l'ouverture pour la porte, puis placez 1 PANNEAU ENTIER au-dessus du DEMI-PANNEAU arrière.

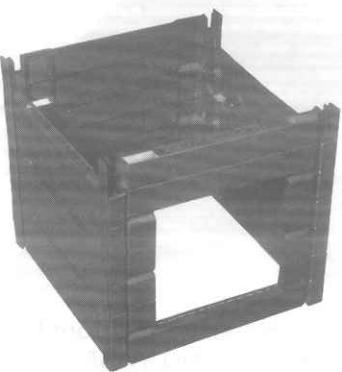
• Coloque 2 PANELES DE 1/4 TAMAÑO por encima del PANEL DE MEDIO TAMAÑO anterior para formar la abertura de la puerta y añada a continuación 1 PANEL COMPLETO por encima del PANEL posterior DE MEDIO TAMAÑO.

**4**

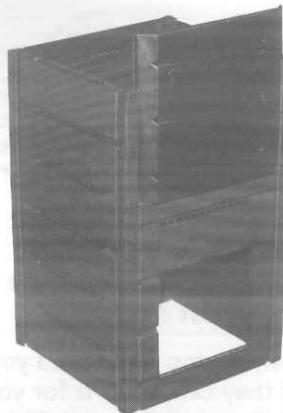
• Add 2 FULL PANELS to the sides and then 1 FULL PANEL to the rear. Add the 2 remaining QUARTER PANELS above the first set.

• Ajoutez 2 PANNEAUX ENTIERS sur les côtés et 1 PANNEAU ENTIER à l'arrière. Placez les 2 QUARTS DE PANNEAU qui restent au-dessus des QUARTS DE PANNEAU déjà installés pour terminer la porte.

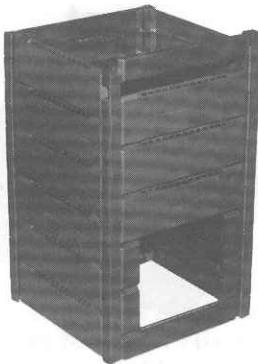
• Agregue 2 PANELES COMPLETOS a los lados, y 1 PANEL COMPLETO en la parte posterior. Enseguida añada los 2 PANELES DE 1/4 TAMAÑO restantes por encima del primer juego para completar la abertura de la puerta.

**5**

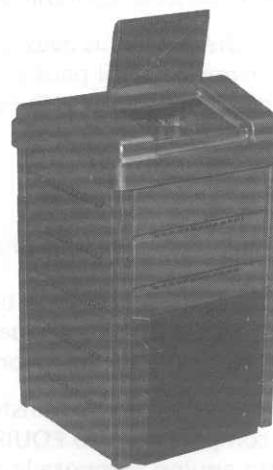
- Add 1 FULL PANEL to each of the 4 sides to complete the doorway.
- Installez un PANNEAU ENTIER sur chacun des 4 côtés.
- Agregue 1 PANEL COMPLETO en los 4 lados.

**7**

- Slide the door panel into the slots on either side of the side containing the door opening. Use liquid dish soap to lubricate the sliding door slots, as needed.
- Glissez la porte dans les fentes pratiquées à cet effet de chaque côté de l'ouverture. Au besoin, utilisez du savon à vaisselle pour lubrifier les fentes de la porte coulissante.
- Deslice el panel de la puerta en las ranuras a ambos lados del lado donde está la abertura de la puerta. Si es necesario, use detergente liquido para vajillas, para lubricar las ranuras de las puertas corredizas.

**6**

- Continue to add the remaining FULL PANELS to all sides. Then complete the enclosure by adding the last 2 HALF PANELS to the front and rear sides.
- Continuez d'ajouter les PANNEAUX ENTIERS qui restent sur tous les côtés. Terminez en ajoutant les 2 DEMI-PANNEAUX qui restent sur les côtés avant et arrière.
- Continúe añadiendo los PANELES COMPLETOS restantes a todos los lados. Después complete el recinto colocando los últimos 2 PANELES DE MEDIO TAMAÑO en los lados anterior y posterior.

**8**

- Position the lid on top and start composting!
- Installez le couvercle et commencez à composter !
- ¡Coloque la tapa encima y comience a producir abono!

## COMPOSTER GETTING FULL? EXPAND IT!

Many of our customers find that their compost needs are greater than the capacity of our standard GARDEN GOURMET.

You can expand the capacity of your composter at any time by purchasing our GARDEN GOURMET EXPANSION KIT. This kit increases the height of your composter's sides and gives you an extra 1.7 cubic feet of compost capacity.

Ask the retailer from whom you purchased your composter if they stock this kit or if they can order it for you; or call us directly at (416) 751-9445 or toll-free at 1-800-387-6018.

## VOTRE BAC À COMPOST EST PRESQUE PLEIN? AGRANDISSEZ-LE!

Nombre de nos clients trouvent que leurs besoins en matière de compostage dépassent la capacité de notre GARDEN GOURMET standard.

Vous pouvez augmenter la capacité de votre bac à compost à n'importe quel moment en achetant notre TROUSSE D'EXPANSION GARDEN GOURMET. Cette trousse augmente la hauteur des parois de votre composteur et fournit une capacité supplémentaire de 1,7 pied cube pour contenir votre compost.

Demandez au détaillant chez qui vous avez acheté votre bac à compost s'il offre cette trousse ou s'il peut la commander pour vous; ou appelez-nous directement au (416) 751-9445 (à Toronto) ou sans frais au 1-800-387-6018.

## ¿SE ESTÁ LLENANDO EL TRANSFORMADOR? ¡EXPÁNDALO!

Muchos de nuestros clientes descubren que tienen necesidades de transformación de desechos en abono que superan a la capacidad de nuestro GARDEN GOURMET convencional.

Ud. puede expandir la capacidad de su transformador en cualquier momento al comprar nuestro EQUIPO DE EXPANSIÓN GARDEN GOURMET. Este equipo aumenta la altura de los lados de su transformador y le proporciona 1.7 pies cúbicos adicionales de capacidad de transformación de desechos en abono.

Pregunte a su vendedor minorista que le vendió su transformador si tiene este equipo en existencias o si lo puede ordenar para Ud.; o llámenos directamente al número (416) 751-9445 (en Toronto), o al número de larga distancia gratuita 1-800-387-6018.

