

Dual Batch Compost Tumbler

The dual bins on this composter are independent of each other so that you can let one side finish "cooking" while adding fresh materials to the other side. The sliding doors on each unit make it easy to access the finished compost or to add new materials. The black color and extra thick walls retain heat to help keep the materials inside cooking. The Dual Batch Compost Tumbler is molded from recycled, UV-inhibited plastic. Each bin holds 3 cu. ft.

Parts Included

- (2) Bins
- (2) Sliding Doors
- (2) Axle Bolts (long)
- (6) Frame Bolts (short)
- (8) Self-locking Nuts
- (1) Steel Axle, aa
- (2) Shoulder Frames, bb
- (2) Right Leg Frames, cc
- (2) Left Leg Frames, dd
- (2) Axle Covers

Tools needed:

- Adjustable wrench
- Flathead screwdriver

Figure 1



Assembly

Important: The Leg and Shoulder Frame parts and the Axle have letters stamped into the metal to identify them and make assembly easier.

Step 1. Take one of the Right Leg Frames (labeled "cc") and one of the Left Leg Frames (labeled "dd"). Slide the tapered end of the Right Leg Frame, "cc" into non-tapered end of the Left Leg Frame, "dd" (Figure 2, detail). **NOTE:** Do NOT secure the frames together with bolts until Step 3. Repeat to form the other side of the base.

Step 2. Place one of the attached Right and Left Leg Frames so that the Left Leg, "dd" is on the left and the Right Leg, "cc" is on the right. Place the other attached Frames parallel to it, but reversed so that "dd" is on the right and "cc" is on the left (Figure 2). Join them together by taking a Shoulder Frame, "bb" and sliding the non-tapered end over the tapered end of "dd" and the tapered end into the end of "cc". Repeat to attach the other Shoulder Frame.

Important: Before continuing, check to make sure both Bins will fit in the assembled frame. If the frame is too narrow, you have assembled it incorrectly. Take the frame apart and examine the legs to make sure you have the longer side of each Leg Frame sitting on the ground. The shorter sides should attach to the Shoulder Frames.

Step 3. Thread a Frame Bolt through each of the six sets of predrilled holes, with the head of each bolt facing out (Figure 2). Use an adjustable wrench or pliers to hold the nut while you use the screwdriver to tighten the bolts.

over please

Figure 2

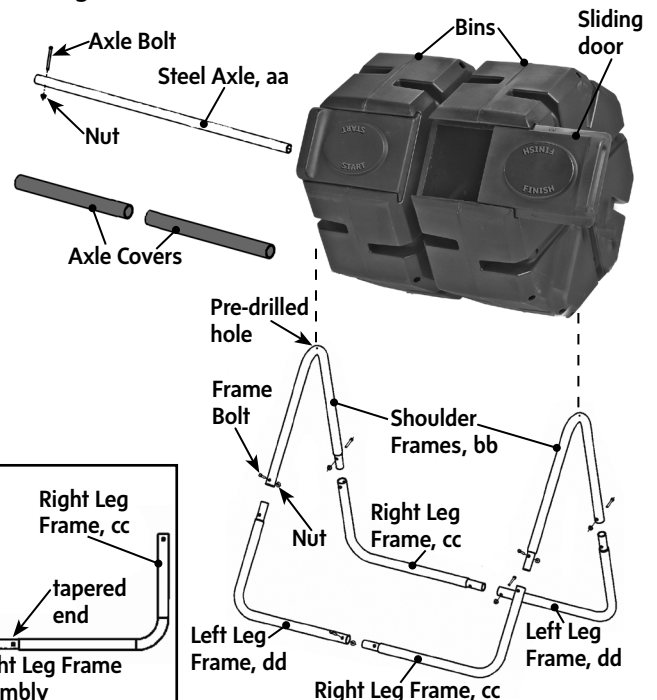
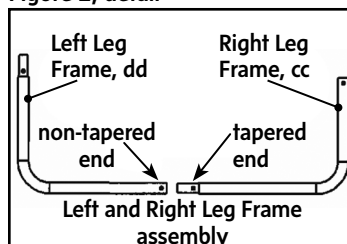
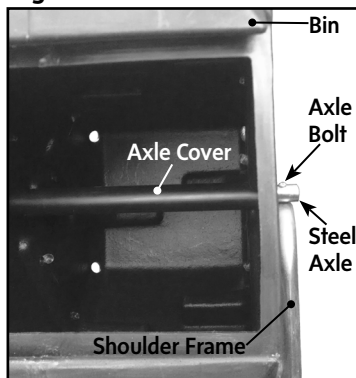


Figure 2, detail



Step 4. Position the Bins side by side on the ground. Holding the Axle Covers inside of the Bins, slide the Steel Axle ("aa") into the center hole of the first Bin, through the Axle Cover and into the next Bin and Axle Cover (Figure 3). Continue sliding until the predrilled holes in each end of the Steel Axle are visible.



Step 5. Insert a long Axle Bolt through the hole in each end of the Steel Axle (Figure 3).

Step 6. With the Bins resting on the ground, tip the assembled Frame onto its side and align the pre-drilled holes in the top of each Shoulder Frame with the Bolts in the Steel Axle (Figure 3). Tighten a nut onto each bolt. Tip the assembled Frame and Bins upright to the normal position. Check that all nuts are fully tightened and that the composter bins rotate freely.

Step 7. Slide the Doors into place (Figure 2). The assembly is now complete and your composter is ready to use.

Batch Composting

Add green materials such as garden trimmings and food waste and brown materials such as dried leaves and coir bricks in a 1 to 3 ratio (green to brown). Adding an activator, such as our Super Hot Compost Starter (sold separately), will also help break down the compost materials. With the right blend of shredded ingredients and some practice you can make compost in just 4 to 8 weeks.

When the "Start" Bin is full and the composting action has begun, slide the Door out and switch it with the "Finish" Door.

Loading Your Composter

1. Layer 4" to 6" of dry, shredded leaves, dry garden trimmings and/or straw in the bottom of the composter. For easiest tumbling, avoid heavy materials like sod, clumps of wet grass, soil or fresh manure.
2. Sprinkle some of the Super Hot mixture on top of this first layer. Add a 2" to 3" layer of grass clippings, kitchen scraps and other nitrogen-rich materials. Sprinkle lightly with water. The correct moisture content is very important—the material should be moist, like a well-wrung sponge, but not wet.
3. Repeat the layering process described above, adding the Super Hot mixture to each layer. Fill the composter to within 10" of the top, adding water as needed to each layer. "Tumble" the composter a few times to mix the ingredients. The molded ridges inside help break up materials and the holes provide aeration.

Checking the Progress

After two or three days, check the temperature at the center of your mix with a compost thermometer or by touch. Temperatures between 120 and 160 degrees F indicate the beneficial organisms are multiplying and doing their job

decomposing materials. Turning the composter 5 to 10 times every two or three days will mix the materials, incorporate fresh oxygen, and keep the process active.

If the compost is not heating up, check the moisture content to ensure materials are not drying out. This can happen quickly during the summer. Squeeze a handful of compost to see if it feels like a damp sponge. If it does, the water level is fine. If it feels dry, add a little more water (be careful not to add too much) and turn the composter to mix well. Continue turning the composter every two or three days.

Depending on the type of material you added, how finely it was shredded and other conditions, such as air temperature and moisture content, the compost should be ready in 4 to 8 weeks.

Finished Compost

To remove the finished compost, slide off the "Finish" cover, rotate the composter and empty the contents through the opening. You may need to use a hand trowel at first, then rotate the unit over to empty it completely.

Finished compost will contain a mix of fine and coarse material. The compost can be sifted for use in potting mixes. Use the coarser compost as a nutritious top-dressing around outdoor plantings, put it directly into the garden, or add it to your next batch of compost.

Composting Tips

- Keep the moisture level damp, not soggy.
- Once the active "Start" batch begins to heat up, rotate the bin 5 to 10 times every few days to provide aeration.
- Use the composter on a level surface. If it's on an angle, a full batch can be very difficult to turn.
- If cold weather arrives before your batch has finished cooking, it may be left inside the Compost Tumbler until spring returns. To start it up again, add Super Hot Compost Starter and some leaves, food scraps and grass clippings, and water as needed.
- Do not put meats, pet waste, fats, bones, fish, dairy products, trash or plastic into the Compost Tumbler. These do not break down easily and can attract rodents and other unwanted pests to your yard.

To order products and for more information about the basic principles of composting, visit us online at www.gardeners.com.