KEKKILÄ
GARDEN

HOME COMPOSTER 230 L KESTÄVÄ+

Spacious and well-insulated composter for year-round composting

Kekkilä Home Composter 230 L Kestävä+ is an excellent choice for composting household waste all year round. The high-quality composter meets the requirements of the Finnish Waste Decree.

WHY CHOOSE KEKKILÄ HOME COMPOSTER 230 L KESTÄVÄ+?

- Sleek design – the round shape distributes heat evenly even in the cold seasons of the year.
- Comfort, functionality and ease of composting – ensured down to every detail. Thickest thermal insulation and largest drain hatch on the market.
- High-quality and long-lasting materials – hard plastic frame, thermal cover and drain hatch inmoulded with thick insulation.
- Pest proof – the thermal cover and drain door close tightly. Both have an adjustable air valve.
- Recycled UV-protected plastic (PE) used in the production.
- We give the Home Composter a 25-year frame warranty – remember to register the product on kekkila.fi.

Kekkilä Home Composter 230 L Kestävä+

1. Hard plastic thermal cover
   Polyethylene + EPS insulation
2. Support hinge and locking latch of the cover
3. Cover's sealant and holder
   Silicone + ABS
4. Hard plastic frame
   Polyethylene + EPS insulation
5. Drain hatch
   Polyethylene + EPS insulation
6. Thermometer
   Stainless Steel (SST)
7. Locking latches of the drain hatch
   ABS
8. Air valve
   (PP)

In addition: hose connector, sieve and hose (ø ¾)

Colours: Dark grey, hatch and cover recycled black
Weight: 18 kg. Measurements: ø 71 x h 109 cm

KEKKILÄ GARDEN TAKUU 25 VUOTTA

VALMISTETTU KIERRÄTYSMUOVISTA

TEHTY SUOMESSA MADE IN FINLAND

Placement and Getting Started

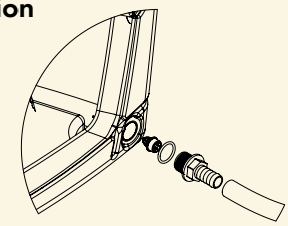
When selecting a place for your composter, check the following:

- Easy to fill up. Best locations are close to the waste bin or at the border of your lot in the garden. If you plan to place your composter at the border of your land lot, have a discussion with your neighbour. Remember that the composter is also often used in winter.
- Sufficient space for servicing functions, emptying, and the possible post-composting as well as for drying agent containers and other care equipment.
- Compost leachate, rain and meltwater may be absorbed into the ground. In many cases, sand or gravel makes the best base. We recommend collecting the leachate and using it in your garden as a fertilizer.

Hose connector Installation

Screw the hose connector into the internally threaded opening on the back of the composter.

Insert the hose into the hose connector.



Filling, Servicing and Emptying

Opening and closing the thermal cover

The locking latch and support hinge of the thermal cover of the Home Composter ease the usage and ensure a tight structure.

The locking latch opens easily by stretching the rubber part, and the support hinge is released with a slight reciprocating lifting movement. The cover is easy to place on the holder on the edge during filling.

After adding biowaste and compost bedding, the support hinge is put in place by raising and lowering the cover.

Close the locking latch well, and the composting process can continue even more efficiently as the micro-organisms have enough material to decompose.

Filling the Composter

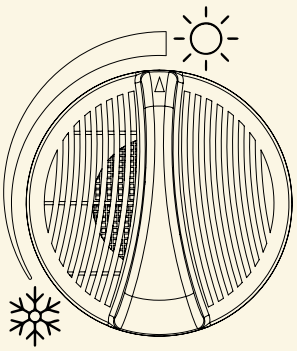
Using the composter is simple. Cover the bottom with some 5 cm of coarse branch chips or twigs. Regularly fill the composter with household waste a few times per week. Spread the household waste evenly and always add drying agent (for example Kekkilä Bedding for Compost and Dry Toilet) in the amount of 30–50 per cent of the quantity of household waste.

From the point of view of the compost functioning, it is important to add kitchen waste regularly and to maintain proper humidity. The humidity level is right if a few drops of water can be squeezed out of a handful of compost. If the compost is too dry, it must be watered. If the compost is too wet, bedding agent should be added. In addition to kitchen waste, the composter is also suitable for composting garden waste and for post-composting dry toilet waste. You should cover toilet waste well with bedding when post-composting.

If needed, the compost should be mixed and turned every two weeks with an appropriate mixing stick to create air passages. Once a month the compost should be mixed more thoroughly and lightly covered with bedding mixture. A well-functioning composter does not necessarily need mixing and turning.

The Operation of the Air Valve

Air valve should be kept in an open position during warm seasons of the year (see the picture). The point of the valve points to the composter or shows how the air flows in and out.



Emptying the Composter

It is best to empty the composter in the spring or autumn when compost mulch is most needed. A full composter may also be emptied mid-season, because the compost mass needs oxygen to continue composting.

Empty the composter from the large drain hatch. If you use a shovel to empty the composter, take care not to break the sieve on the hose connector at the back of the composter. Use handles to open and close the hatch. The large drain hatch enables the use of a separate inner container to help with the emptying process.

Opening and Closing the Drain Hatch

The drain hatch is easy to open due to the convenient locking latches. Thanks to the large opening, mature compost is effortless to shovel, for example, into a wheelbarrow.

The shape of the trunk vaults the fresher compost, so it does not hinder mid-way emptying. Close the hatch and let the mass fall to the bottom at its own pace.

Order spare parts from Kekkilä's online store.

Basics of Composting

For composting you will need

- a correctly dimensioned and thermally insulated composter
- a biowaste bin for your kitchen
- compost bedding and a container
- a pitchfork, spade or mixing stick

What is composting?

Composting is a natural process based on biological decomposition. In composting, nutrients in the waste materials are recycled and reused as plant-growing material. In the compost mass, fungus and decomposition micro-organisms transform the waste into humus and at the same time heat, steam, nutrient salts, and carbon dioxide are produced. Decomposition is most efficient at a temperature between 30 and 45 C. Thermal insulation keeps the heat inside the composter. Heat and steam on the inside of the cover of the composter indicate that the composter is working.

Micro-organisms can perform their decomposition work only if regularly fed. To survive they need oxygen, water and nutrients. Nitrogen is obtained from kitchen household waste, while carbon comes from garden waste and branch chips. Therefore we would recommend composting kitchen and garden waste in the same composter. Dry garden waste or a bedding agent will increase the air in the compost, bind discharged nitrogen, and balance humidity.

We recommend reserving a few bags of Kekkilä Bedding for Compost and Dry Toilet that contains cutter shavings and bog peat for use. In addition, coarse material could be added to improve the aeration of the composter without mixing it manually. The bedding should be stored indoors or in a closed container to protect it from humidity. If the composter is not filled with household waste and bedding agent regularly during the winter season, the composting process will weaken or cease. Composting will continue again after the mass within melts and the temperature inside the composter increases.

What Can Be Composted?

From the kitchen

- Food leftovers, coffee and tea grounds, fish entrails
- Fruits, vegetables, root vegetables and their peels
- Fats, crushed egg shells
- Cleaning waste from pet cages
- Potting soil and plant waste, household tissue and napkins

From the garden

- Chipped branches and stems
- Lawnmower cuttings
- Dried and perished foodstuffs e.g., fruits, berries and vegetables
- Tree and bush leaves
- Raking waste

Using Compost in the Garden

You can use compost almost anywhere in the garden. However, compost containing toilet waste should not be used in a kitchen garden. Compost mass is a very strong fertilizer. It binds moisture, makes the soil more porous and adds nutrients. A well-functioning composter will provide half-finished compost after only a few weeks of use, and the compost can be used as mulch under shrubs, trees or perennials.

Half-finished compost can also be used to improve soil in a kitchen garden during the autumn, for example. If you mix compost into the garden soil during the spring, it should be fully composted, in other words, it should be brown matter of even quality. You can make your own soil from compost mass by mixing it with horticultural peat and sand (1:1:1). Compost can be sifted and the mass that has not composted yet can be returned back to the composter.

Compost mass can be improved further by post-composting. The substance is ready for post-composting when it has completely lost the appearance of the original waste. Post-composting can be done in another composter or in a compost rack. An open compost heap should be covered to prevent nutrients from washing away.

Compost soil is typically fully finished after 1–3 years, when all waste is decomposed into dark humus of even quality. The temperature of ready compost mass has decreased close to the temperature of the environment. Please bear in mind that even when fully decomposed, compost mass cannot be used as a gardening bed as such, but should be mixed with peat and/or sand. We also recommend adding nitrogen to the gardening bed. However, well-sieved finished compost mass can be used as a nutrient for grass.

Problem situations and solutions

Problem	Cause	Solution
Pungent, rotten smell	Compost is too dense and wet	Add plenty of bedding and mix well
Freezing	Not enough new waste, insufficient insulation or mass is too dense and wet	Warm the mass using a hot water bottle or fill up as usual, the compost will restart in spring
Flies or maggots	Not enough bedding or poorly covered animal derived waste	Add bedding and mix, fold in and push the eggs and maggots to the hottest part of the compost
Ash-like substance	Compost is too dry and too hot	Dampen using lukewarm water and mix
Ants	Compost is too dry	Dampen using warm water and mix
Fungus and mould	Mould and other fungus are normal compost decomposition organisms	Service the compost as usual
Compost is not heating up	The mass has finished composting Compost is too dry Compost is too wet	Empty the compost Dampen with lukewarm water and mix Add bedding and mix