



Frequently Asked Questions



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What can I compost through a COMET?

- Kitchen waste including plate scrapes and paper napkins.
- Spoiled or unusable food, kitchen preparation waste and pre-harvest loss
- Compostable food packaging, utensils, and bags
- Animal manures and bedding
- Grass clippings
- Mulched/chipped green waste.

What shouldn't be processed?

- Plastic, glass, and metals
- Larger hard bones.

How much waste can I process?

- The COMET can process approx. 50 - 75kg of waste per day or approximately 350 - 525kg per week.
- Waste includes "brown" matter such as wood chips, bark or sawdust needed to balance wetter materials.

How long does the process take?

- COMET is a double barrel system. One barrel is loaded for a week or longer until 3/4 full. After this, the barrel is left to process for a week or more while the second barrel is loaded.
- Material is therefore in the unit for 10-14 days.
- Waste can be fed multiple times per day on an ongoing basis.

How is waste added to, and removed from the unit?

- Waste is loaded into the barrels through hatches and exits through the same hatches once composting is complete.
- The waste can be discharged into a container or straight onto the ground for further maturation.

What is the product?

- A fine, dark brown compost that can be used as a soil supplement.
- Crumbly, loose, humus like material
- Earthy smell, almost odourless
- No recognisable material.

What can I use the product for?

- The COMET produces a compost that is best stored for 2-4 weeks prior to use.
- It can then either be incorporated into the soil or used as a mulch on gardens and in nurseries.

Do I need to have green waste or other woody materials?

- Yes. COMET is a true composting system so moisture and porosity of the waste must be managed.
- Sawdust or wood pellets are also suitable.

Do I need to shred my waste?

- Food waste can generally be processed without shredding.
- Woody prunings will need to be chipped for use a bulker and should ideally be 10-50mm in size.

Do I need to screen my compost?

- If the material entering the process is small (i.e., well shredded wood has been used) then screening may not be required. However, if larger particles are composted or the material is contaminated with plastic etc., then screening will be required.
- Screening can often allow the recovery of some woody material for reuse as a bulker.

Are odours generated?

- The COMET has been supplied with emissions filters, and minimal odours will be generated if the process is working correctly.
- The COMET should be installed in areas with good ventilation.
- To avoid any odours, it is IMPORTANT that the COMET is fed with the right carbon nitrogen balance and liquids are avoided.

What is the power consumption?

- Approximately 2 kWh per day. At \$0.18 per kWh this is \$0.36 per day.

Do I need 3-phase power?

- No, a normal 240V 10A supply is sufficient to operate the unit.

What is the labour requirement?

- A COMET unit may require an operator for about 1 hour per day, mainly to prepare and feed the system.
- We recommend that the same person operate the unit as the more familiar with the system the better they will understand the process and be able to add the right amount of bulker.

What ambient conditions (maximum and minimum temperature) can the unit operate in?

- The standard ambient range is 4 – 50°C.