

# The Biofutura Home Composter

## Benefits



- ✓ **Beauty:** its striking color and pleasant style make it harmonize with your garden, terraces or exterior sidewalks; being a closed system does not allow the exit of odors or the entry of flies or other animals.
- ✓ **Doble & independent tumbler:** The double container system with independent rotation for each one, allows the handling to be much easier than in single-body systems with dividing wall.
- ✓ **High storage capacity:** This system is designed for families of up to 5 people, and all kinds of food waste can be added without exception, as long as maximum daily capacity is not exceeded (1 gallon per day of food scraps; approximately 1 to 1.5 kilograms per day).
- ✓ **Carbon footprint:** purchasing a product manufactured in Costa Rica avoids unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions due to transportation (via ship or plane) of similar products from North America, Europe or Asia.
- ✓ **Better evacuation of water:** It has double set of holes for evacuation of water vapor in each container. Besides, there are also holes on the bottom of each container to facilitate exit of excess of water (which eventually can be returned to the process).
- ✓ **Color:** The containers are made of green polypropylene, according to the ENSRVR 2016-2021 Strategy of the Ministry of Health of Costa Rica; they are 100% plastic recovered and recycled in Costa Rica. The metal tubes of the shaft and base are galvanized iron also produced in Costa Rica.
- ✓ **Doble lid:** systems with a single shared lid hinder the process of turning the system in order to take out the compost of only one of the two containers; in ours you must only open the lid from the container that will be emptied, while the other remains still.
- ✓ **Composting substrate:** we work with a specialized composting substrate, developed by us, which contains sawdust, woodchips and mature compost.

## Easy to use



# 1

SEPARATE

### SUITABLE FOR COMPOSTING

Vegetables & peels, all fruits, citrus fruits & peels in small pieces and small amounts, fried oil in small amounts, eggs & egg shells, egg cartons, mushrooms, bread, paper napkins and bread bags, compostable cups, coffee grounds & filter, food leftovers, paper without inks, weeds of soft plant waste from the garden, yogurt, ashes and charcoal in small amounts, freshly cut grass.

### UNSUITABLE FOR COMPOSTING

Meat & bones, fish & bones, liquids, plastics, metals, glass, dairy products, plastics, liquids or soups in abundance, pine or cypress sawdust, treated wood sawdust, cardboard or paper with inks, the newspaper, toilet paper or diapers, very thick branches or hardwood remains, cigarette butts or ashes, juice boxes, pet droppings.



# 2

CUT IN SMALL  
PIECES

- ✓ **CUT IN SMALL PIECES:** it is very important that you chop or shred everything well before depositing in the composter (especially citrus fruits & vegetable peels, as well as paper bags and egg cartons). If you have many oranges, lemons or pineapple it is recommended to add some calcium carbonate to lower acidity.
- ✓ **MIX = 50% GREENS + 50% BROWNS:** mix all these food residues rich in nitrogen (GREENS), with other carbon-rich ones (BROWNS): leaves and dried grass, sawdust, wood chips or wood pellets; add similar volumes of GREENS and BROWNS, except in the case of wood pellets, for which less quantity is used. If you do not have BROWNS it does not mean that you cannot compost, you can still use mature compost or even soil, but you'll still need to add some thick material such woodchips to create porosity, thus aeration.



# 3

**MIX & TURN EVERY DAY**

- ✓ **TURN EVERY DAY:** only one container is filled at a time, for several weeks, up to 75% of its capacity. Then the second container begins to be filled. Both containers must be turned every day, once a day, 6 to 10 turns. When the second container is also filled, the first container can be emptied to start filling it again while the material in the second container is being processed. The containers continue to alternate in that way.
- ✓ The compost extracted from the composter is not ready yet, it should be allowed to rest for at least 4 weeks to finally be used in your home gardens; if you can let it rest for a longer period of time, it shall be even better.



# 4

**REGENERATE**

## Frequently asked questions

QUESTIONS	RECOMENDATIONS
Can I add citrus fruits (lemon, pineapple, orange, etc)?	These can make the process difficult; they cannot be added in large quantities, they must be cut into small pieces and it is better to leave them a few days apart sprinkled in calcium carbonate to lower the acidity and avoid the attraction of flies.
The material inside the composter is cold. What's going on?	Heat must always be generated; if it does not happen the process stops or is very slow, so it is better to add more carbon rich materials (dry leaves, sawdust, woodchips or composting substrate). It is also important to check if you are adding a lot of citrus fruits.
There is a sort of white fungus on top of the waste.	It is very common and it is very good. It is probably the "actinomycetes", which are soil microorganisms characterized by being intermediate organisms between fungi and bacteria, and which are responsible for reducing to more simple forms the most resistant compounds, such as lignin (present in wood).
The material inside the composter is very wet.	It cannot be too wet or too dry. It is probably cold too. It is better to add more carbon rich materials (dry leaves, sawdust, woodchips or composting substrate) until the temperature begins to rise. It is also important to check if many citrus fruits are being added or if the composter is receiving rain directly.
There are worms in the waste. Is that bad?	¡NO!. If you have been turning your composter every day and doing the right mixes, it is most likely the black soldier fly, which is an excellent "composter" and even eats the larvae of other flies that are harmful. Those larvae or worms you see feed themselves from anything including vegetables, fruits, grains, meat, dairy products, fats, vegetable oils, etc.
What kind of waste I definitely cannot throw in the composter?	No animal or human excrement, no residue that is not organic (sand, stones, automotive oils, paints, etc.). It is also preferable not to pour liquids, unless the mix is too dry.
I have sawdust and pine wood shavings (or cypress); Can I take advantage of it?	It is better not to do so. These type of wood generates a very acidic environment which stops the reproduction of bacteria, so the composting process might stop, the odors begin and you will never have good organic fertilizer. It is also not recommended to use sawdust or shavings from treated wood.
Can I use the compost that I get from the composter right away?	Definitely not. That material needs to mature, so let it sit for at least 4 weeks, and later you can add it to your garden or reuse it in the composter.
How can I speed up the composting process?	There are many ways. Mature compost, liquid or solid effective microorganisms (EM), Takakura, mountain microorganisms, lactobacillus, etc. If you are interested and want to invest a little more money in your composting call or write to us, we can help you. We sell our own microorganisms.
Can I add the grass and waste from my backyard to the process of composting?	If you have enough space left, definitely yes. Green and fresh grass is excellent for the composting process so please do so. Your new composter has a lot of space and that waste degrades very quickly and helps to raise temperature.
Does the process inside the composter produce leachate?	Yes, it must!. Your composter must be able to eliminate the excess of liquids, so both containers have holes in the bottom to do so. To much leachate is not common in a good process. It is ideal to place the composter indoors in a place where it can be cleaned easily and to place a small container with saw dust on the floor to catch the leachate.

