



HOTBIN®
composting

welcome to **HOTBIN** composting



lets start
composting!
grab a tea and read me

USER GUIDE

Essential Reading

- How the HOTBIN Works
- Getting Started
- Adding Waste
- Hot Composting Tips
- Care and FAQ's

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HOTBIN Parts

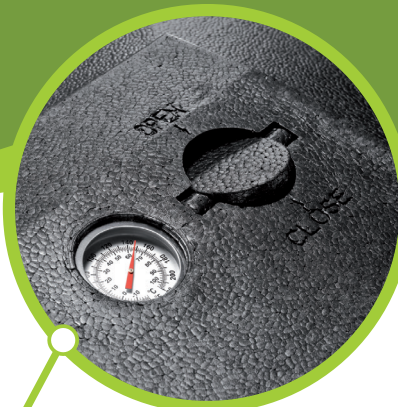
Anatomy of the HOTBIN

Lid keep tightly closed and wipe area clean after adding waste. **DO NOT** force hinged lid backward.

Hatch Panel to remove compost. Do not remove without waste inside. Top of the hatch panel specifies height of base layer.

Aeration Base Plate
Disperses air through the HOTBIN utilising the air spaces created by adding bulking agent.

What Is HOTBIN Made From?
Expanded polypropylene (EPP) which is fully recyclable.



Fixture Plate with lid thermometer, aeration valve and built-in carbon filter to control odours.

Cam Strap(s) secure hatch panel against pressure exerted by compost.

Leachate Collection
Check fortnightly to collect liquid fertiliser for use in enriching soil.

HOTBIN Accessories



Internal Thermometer

Always use this to check the internal temperature before adding waste types that should only be added over 40°C. There can be a variance between the lid and internal temperature depending on the waste level inside the HOTBIN.



Kick Start Bottle

Follow bottle instructions. Item Supplied Empty
For use when starting the HOTBIN when outside temperature is below 5°C or after a longer period when the unit has cooled down after not being fed. Contact support for advice after two failed attempts.



Raking Stick

Use to remove compost or mix in new waste with paper/card and bulking agent. Do not mix the entire contents of the HOTBIN as heat will be dispersed and lost to the cooler parts of waste resulting in the unit cooling down.

setting up your hotbin

Place the HOTBIN on any hard flat surface, in sun or in shade.



attach cam straps

Cam strap(s) provide hatch support against pressure exerted by compost.



open valve by 2mm

Leave valve open and keep clear to allow air to circulate.



install fertiliser unit

Lay HOTBIN on its back and push unit down into recess.

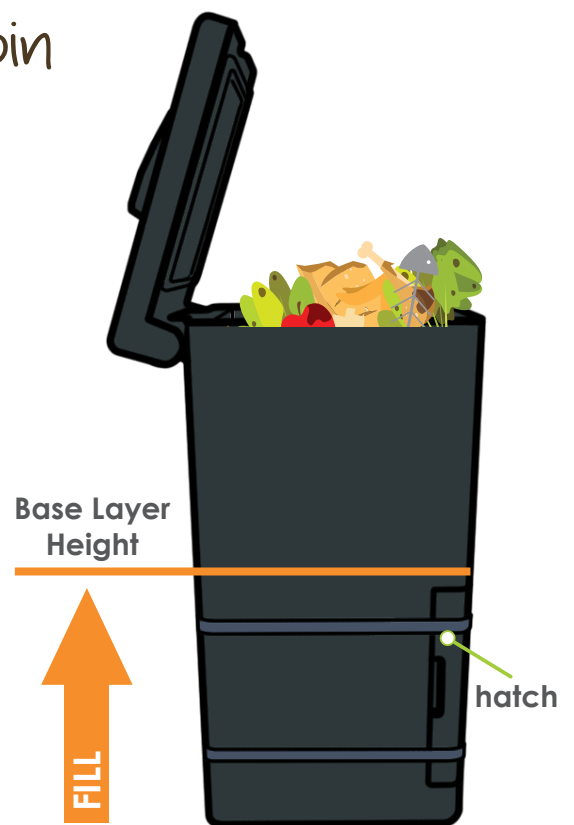
starting the hotbin

Build the Base Layer

The base layer is the volume of waste required to start the hot composting process. This volume is indicated by the top of the hatch, it can be added in one go or bit by bit depending on how much waste you have available.

1. Add a thin scattering of twigs into the empty bin.
2. Add chopped, easy to digest waste with bulking agent & shredded paper/card (**see feeding below**). **DO NOT** add the entire bag of bulking agent.
3. Keep adding waste, once base layer is achieved the temperature should increase within a week.
4. If starting the HOTBIN in the winter (less than 5°C), use the kick start bottle once the base layer is built.

NB: The waste level should always exceed the base layer to sustain hot composting temperatures.

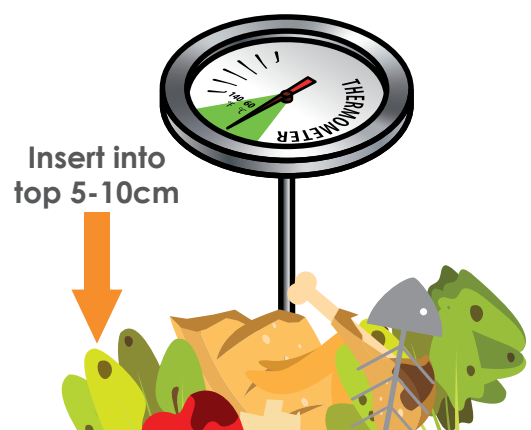


feeding the hotbin

STOP! Are You Adding Waste That Requires HOT Composting (40-60°C)?

The lid thermometer is for guidance and the extra thermometer is for accuracy. There can be a difference dependant on the waste level.

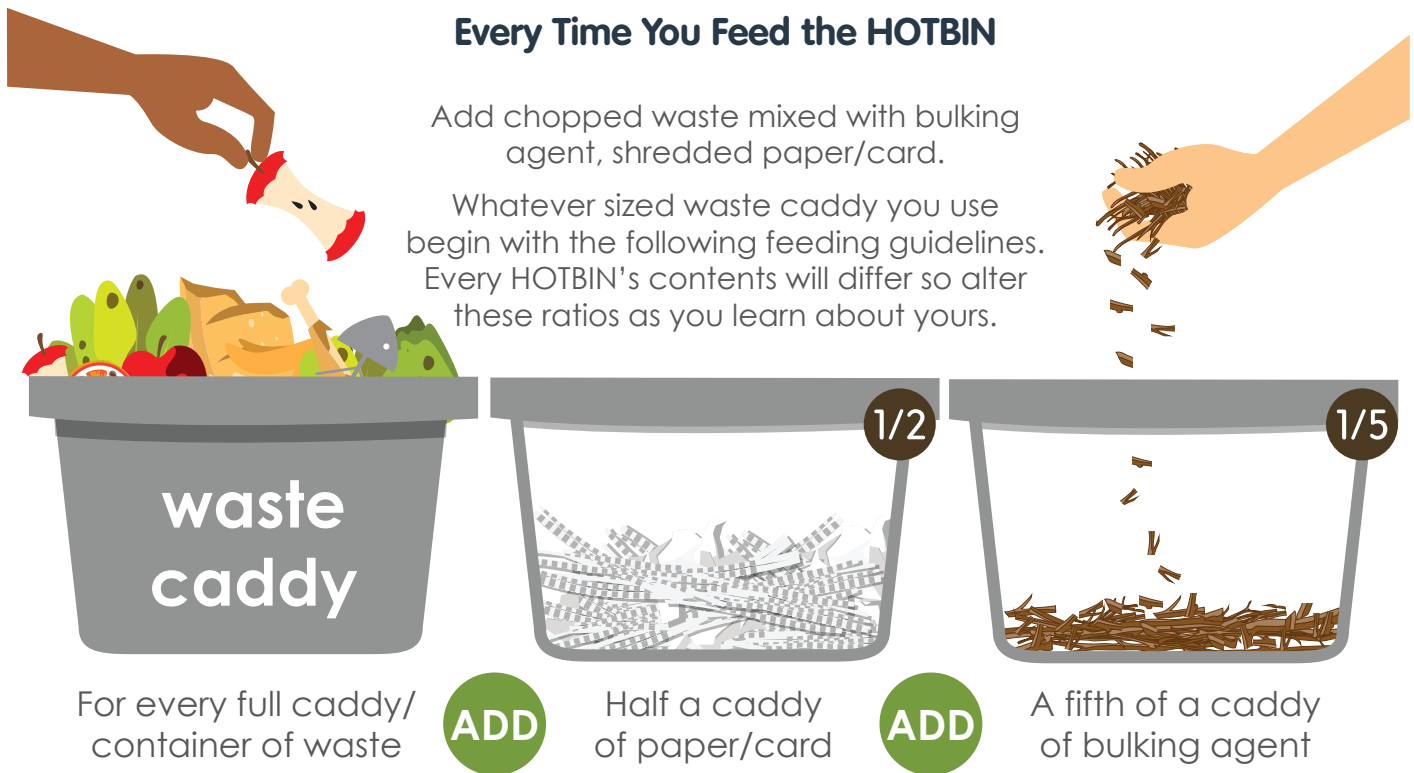
If adding waste that requires **HOT** composting (see waste digestion table) **always** check the internal temperature by inserting the thermometer into the hottest part of the waste, the top 5-10cm.



Every Time You Feed the HOTBIN

Add chopped waste mixed with bulking agent, shredded paper/card.

Whatever sized waste caddy you use begin with the following feeding guidelines. Every HOTBIN's contents will differ so alter these ratios as you learn about yours.



How Much Waste to Add Weekly?

minimum	2.5kg (HOTBIN Mini) 5kg (HOTBIN)
maximum	add minimum amount every other day

NB: 2.5kg = approx one 5L caddy (270x192x210mm)

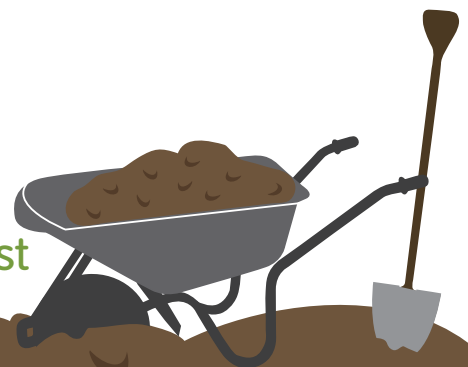
Feed 2-3 times per week. Use the raking stick to mix in paper & bulking agent. **DO NOT** mix the entire HOTBIN contents, only what has been added.

harvesting compost

mulch
compost

30 days

rich
compost



Removing Compost and Leachate

1. Remove cam strap(s), then use one finger grip on the side of the hatch to pull it away - give it a good tug!
2. Use the raking stick or a trowel, carefully remove the compost.
3. Collect the fertiliser every 1-2 weeks. The cap needs to be finger-tight only.

Tip: Prevent compost falling down by removing the core first, leaving the supporting sides to last.



DO NOT leave compost in the base longer than 6 months. It will compact and restrict airflow within the unit.

adding bulking agent and paper

bulking agent to maintain aeration

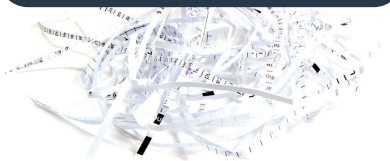


What is It?

Partially composted woodchip. This creates air spaces in the waste providing bacteria with oxygen to keep composting aerobically.

Dry, hard, woody garden prunings will fulfill the same job if you do not have access to any woodchip.

shredded paper to balance moisture



What is It?

Shredded/torn paper or corrugated card helps balance moisture levels. Waste types differ in their moisture levels and if left unbalanced can result in anaerobic bacteria taking over.

Newspaper can be used however it is harder to break down because of its higher lignin content, so expect to find small newspaper balls in your compost.

How much water is in waste?

Why it is important to add shredded paper or card

10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
% of water content			garden waste		grass	vegetable peelings	food waste	salads, cooked food	

how heat is produced

Speed of Waste Digestion

Bacteria digest waste types at different speeds. Some are easy to digest, others are hard to digest - this in turn affects the rate of heat release within the HOTBIN.

Understanding the HOTBIN Diet

HOTBIN works best with a mixture of waste types to provide constant heat production. Feeding HOTBIN is like a human diet, eat a donut for a short burst of energy or a banana for a slower, longer energy release.

Waste Digestion Table

		CHECK	ALWAYS check the internal temperature before adding
easy fast	nettles, comfrey, grass, blood and bone meal, chicken manure pellets, fruit and vegetable peelings	ONLY ADD AT 40-60°C	cooked food waste, meat and fish (inc skins), any leftovers including pet food
medium	straw/hay (small amounts)*, tea bags, coffee grinds, nuts and citrus peel, paper and cardboard		diseased plant material, biodegradable cat litter* (small quantities)
hard slow	egg shells, sawdust/woodshavings* (small amounts), twigs, leaves (shredded) and newspaper		pet bedding and waste*, small bones and perennial weeds* (some require 60°C)

*Visit HOTBIN help online for specific composting advice

Always Chop Waste

Chop waste to less than 4cm and shred where necessary. Chopping increases the surface area accessible to bacteria to help speed up the breakdown of waste.



how the hotbin works

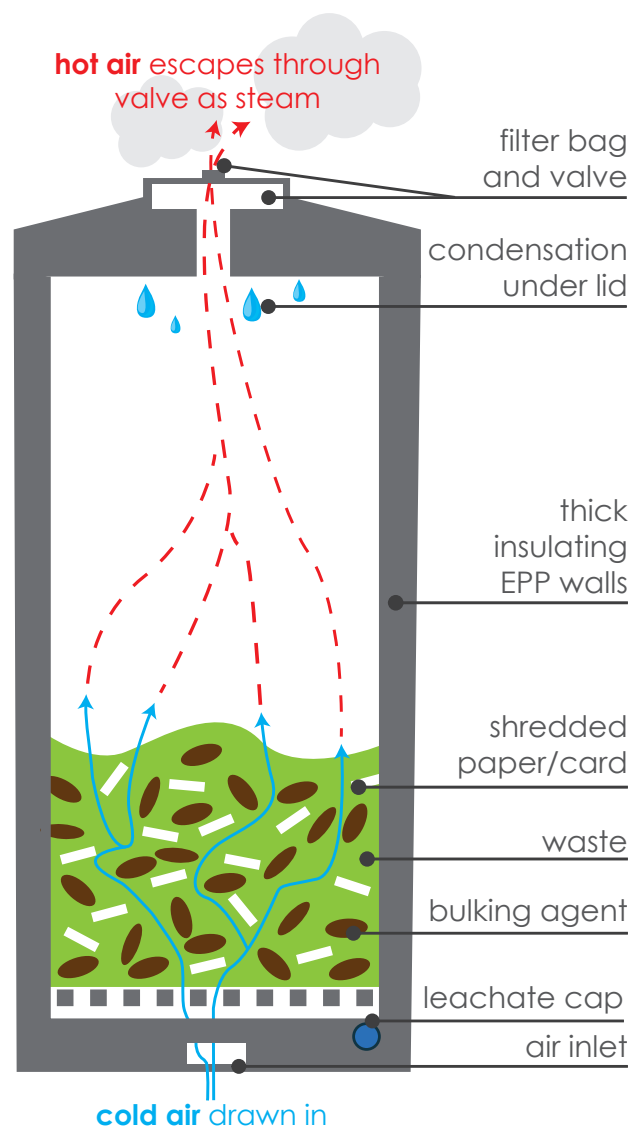
HOTBIN is an aerobic composter which achieves hot composting temperatures of 40-60°C by maximising what nature does naturally; keeping bacteria happy with sufficient water, oxygen and food (waste).

Heat is generated by bacteria as waste is digested, the insulating EPP walls then lock this in and the HOTBIN's temperature rises.

Waste is mixed with shredded paper/card to control moisture and bulking agent is used to create air spaces. Air (oxygen) is drawn in through the bottom air inlet and uses the air spaces to circulate around bacteria, feeding them with oxygen and keeping them composting aerobically.

Heat produced during bacterial activity creates moisture during decomposition which then converts into water vapour and leaves via the valve as steam.

HOTBIN works as an insulated chimney with three layers; upper hot active layer, maturing warm middle and cool base.



happy bacteria need



HOTBIN has a 3 year manufacturer's guarantee. This excludes damage caused by wildlife and undue care.

HOTBIN Composting

email: support@hotbin.ch | web: www.hotbin.ch

designed in Morpeth
made in the UK



In partnership with:

