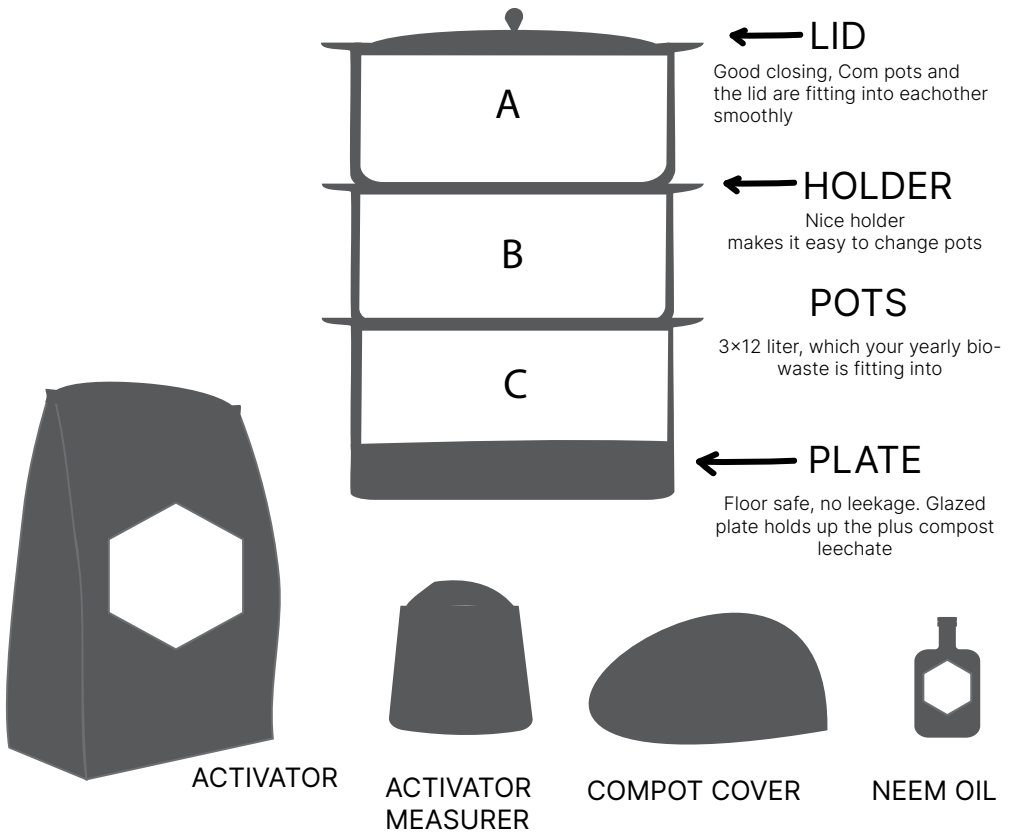


CQM  
POT

THE FIRST WORM-FREE  
CERAMIC INDOOR  
COMPOSTER



## SPECS

- Material: Porous fired, non-glazed ceramic : breaths, deodorizes and creating optimal environment for composting
- 3 × 12liter pot, in which you can compost all year long
- Height: 47 cm  
Diameter: 35 cm  
Capacity: 0,5-1,2kg/week biowaste

COMPOT Starter package contains:

3 db pots

1db lid

1db plate

COMPOT activator

Neem oil, spray bottle for using it, COMPOT cover against fruitflies



|  |   |
|--|---|
| Introduction                                       | 3 |
| What is COMPOT indoor ceramic composter?           | 4 |
| How to get started!                                | 4 |
| COMPOT COMPOSTER USAGE                             | 5 |
| How to harvest ready COMPOT compost?               | 6 |
| Appendix   |   |
| - What can you compost in COMPOT and what to avoid |   |
| - Frequently Asked Questions                       |   |
| Contacts/Socials for more info                     |   |

## INTRO

Hi! I'm Tünde, I designed and created with my friends COMPOT. I don't have and access for a garden and living in the city but I've allways been interested about the fate of my household biowaste. I have been indoor composting since 2010 and I've tried and studied all the composting methods.

I have dreamt of a composter that doesn't require garden, electricy, worms, is made of natural material, easy to maintain and I can be proud of it in my kitchen: This is how COMPOT was born



## WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is an invention of nature: a natural cycle. Under good conditions, organic matter (vegetables leftovers, fruit peel, tea, coffee grains, etc.) decomposes with the help of decomposing organisms and "builds up" into humus in the matured, ready compost

## WHY IS COMPOSTING SO IMPORTANT?

A significant part of household waste is organic waste, which is transported together with other waste to landfills dumped or incinerated. Composting has long been available to households with gardens, but what about urban heroes who don't have a garden but still want to compost?

Let's get started! The amount of total household waste we produce (approximately 350-400 kg / person per year) can be reduced by at least 1/3 by composting.

**DID YOU KNOW?** What is the biggest amount in our trash and also makes it smelly? ... These are organic compostable waste - the BIOWASTE. This part of our household waste is mainly of plant origin and can be composted, it can occupy up to 30-40% of our trash every week.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Organic waste is NOT rubbish. Finished compost aka "black gold" is actually a concentrated "vitamin cocktail" that promotes healthy and vibrant growth of your plants. Feel free to use your basil or tomato seedlings to replenish your nutrients.

## WHAT IS COMPOT COMPOSTER?

COMPOT is plastic-free, designed for your home or urban space: Made of natural material- from ceramic which is renewable/biodegradable material. It is functional and fits in your kitchen, living room or on your small balcony. It will be with you for a long time, easy and fun to use.

It can be the part of a zerowaste kitchen: COMPOT is designed to compost indoors all year round. Your organic waste collapses to about a third of its volume in the first part of the composting (decomposition part), after which the humus (aka black gold) builds up in it: so you can compost 2 liters of organic waste per week with the COMPOT container.

After 4-6 months you can „harvest“ the finished compost: With a little attention, the green kitchen waste of the average household can be composted all year round, from which 20-30 liters of finished compost is generated.

It is odorless as its material is clay, which breathes: And is helping to have enough oxygen in the compoter and in this way it deodorizes and providing an optimal environment for indoor composting (also). With a little care, we can create an ideal composting environment in it that brings us the scent of a forest floor..

No worms or other additives are needed: As the COMPOT decomposes organic waste using a microbial culture developed for COMPOT composting activator. Also the COMPOT activator has dry material added which helps balancing out your wet organic waste. All you have to do is “feed” your kitchen green waste once a week into the composter.

It is Artisan: We created COMPOT together with several ceramicists and friends. It led us to turn this wonderful material — clay — into a good cause. We got here during 2 years of prototyping and testing so you can use COMPOT without worms. Naturally inside and out. - this is COMPOT.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Why is an indoor composter better than just putting your decomposing waste in the municipal bin? The contents of the municipal trash unfortunately ends up in either the incinerator or in the landfill. Landfill or incinerator? If your green kitchen waste gets here, it will be removed from the natural carbon cycle, most likely burned and released into the atmosphere in the form of CO<sub>2</sub> or in the landfill releasing methane when it is rotting under the pressure of other trash. Instead of burning it during composting, the carbon in the compost is stably bound to humus, so it stays in the soil for a long time.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The finished compost aka “black gold,” is actually a concentrated but gentle nutrient that promotes healthy, vibrant growth of plants, giving us access to healthy, vitamin-rich foods. It can be used to add nutrients in indoor and garden plants, so we never have to buy fertilizer again. The finished compost collapses for 1/3 of it, so we don't have to worry about not knowing where to put it. Use up immediately and start your planting journey.

## Let's get started indoor composting!

### CHECK THE CONTENTS OF THE COMPOT PACKAGE:

- 3 clay pots, 1 lid and 1 plate at the bottom
- Compost activators and paper measurer (1 package is for app. 2 months)
- Neem oil for compost health and fruit fly control
- COMPOT pot cover (for extra fruit fly control)

DID YOU KNOW? Our packaging is plastic free, we are using just paper packaging so it can be recycled or composted. Put some used paper on the bottom of the first pot before you put your biowaste in the pot to prevent falling down to the next pot and also sucking up the excess compost leechate.

### 1. UNPACKING:

Fit the COMPOT units together according to the attached picture and find a suitable place where you can store them permanently (eg on or near a kitchen counter or in a pantry or next to your indoor plants). Do not expose to direct sunlight for long time or rain. Keep the compost activator bag close to your compost bin.

### 2. SELECTING LOCATION

The ideal location for COMPOT is between 18-26 Celsius, which is close to the source of our organic green waste (tolerable 0-38 Celsius). We recommend the kitchen or pantry, but it also looks nice in the living room next to your houseplants. Sometime you can put out on your balcony just take care of that do not expose to direct sunlight or rain- because then it can break the pot.

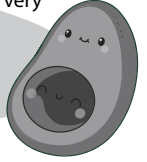
### 3. PREPARATION BEFORE USAGE

Collect decomposing waste in a box with a lid for 1 week, which should be cut into 2-3 cm pieces to help the work of our beneficial compost-breaking bacteria. Everything from morning tea grass to a cabbage torso for dinner gathers here in the collection box so they can be put in the COMPOT container over the weekend. You can find a guide on what you can compost and what you can't at the end of this part, but if you're not sure, just write to on our socials or email.

DID YOU KNOW? 5 + 1 things you can use to make „black gold“ with the COMPOT composter:

1. used tealeaves even with filter paper, used coffee grounds,
2. apple cob, mouldy apple
3. all kinds of vegetable peel, distorted, moldy vegetables
4. eggshell crushed with coffee grinder (but this can go directly for your plants)
5. Organic banana peel + 1 withered flowers and potted plants and their old soil

**DID YOU KNOW?** Bones, hard seeds (like apricot), dry stems, woody parts, hair, hair decompose very slowly (over 1 year or more). These are not recommended in COMPOT to compost. But most live seeds germinate in the COMPOT pot (pumpkin, tomatoe), as more and more mature compost is formed (eg avocado)



#### 4. READY TO START

Put some used paper on the bottom of the pot (A). It is recommended to place the organic waste in the upper pot (A) of the COMPOT. We recommend to precollect your biowaste on your kitchen counter in container with closed lid and feed COMPOT every week 1-2x. But if it's more convenient for you every day usage, it's possible. Be careful not to compact your compost together for to have an airated enviroment and water if it is dry! Composting microorganisms need water and oxygen to work.

At the time of each feeding, also put at least one handful of compost activator on top of the biowaste to cover the decomposing waste. You can read more about the compost activator in the appendix.

Water it to keep the materials dump to be composted in the pot as the forest floor is working. When dry, pour half a glass of water on it and sometimes stir it for airation.

On top of the mixture, place a piece of old paper or more compost activator or your compot fabric cover to have less problem with fruit flies.

Continue this cycle until the upper pot (A) is full. This is estimated to happen in 6-8 weeks.

#### 5. FILLED THE FIRST POT, CHANGE IT *(according to drawing)*

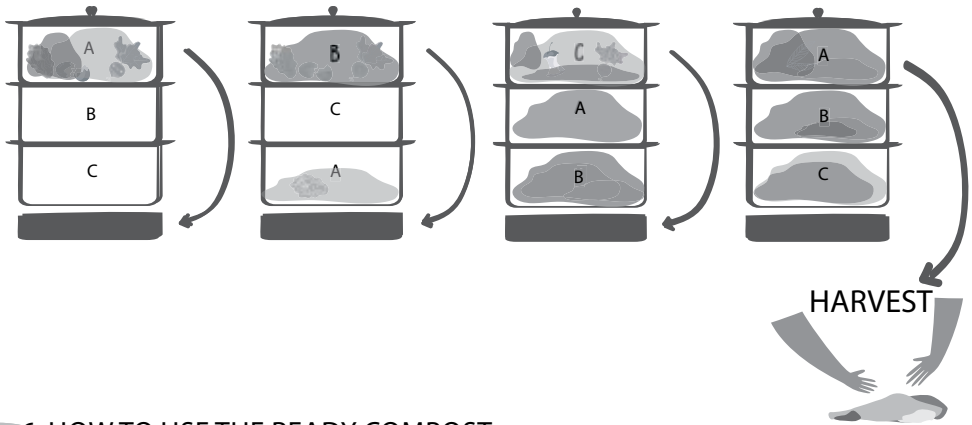
When the upper pot (A) is full, after app 2 months of usage, replace it with the lower empty pot (B) according to the drawing. And what happens in the pot below? As soon as you mix the composting activator with your organic waste, the microorganisms in it will start working, so the contents of your full COMPOT container will collapse to about a third of its volume and pieces of your green waste will become less recognizable from week to week. This way, you can fit all your green kitchen waste all year round into COMPOT while producing 20-30 kg of ready compost yearly.

By the time the third pot (C) is full, this is 4,5-6month, the firts full COMPOT pot (A) is ready in ready for harvest. We estimate this will happen in 18-24 weeks (4,5-6 months). In this case, the already mature compost can be extracted from the first pot.

**DID YOU KNOW?** It is important sometimes to mix the full pots with oxygen, this means a simple mixing by hand or with a spoon. And add water to have damp soil as in the forest floors.



## DRAWING -How to change COM-POTs one in 2months when they are full



### 6. HOW TO USE THE READY COMPOST

Your compost will be ready in the first pot in about 4.5-6 months - by now all three of your pots will be full and it's time to empty the oldest pot so you can continue your composting cycle. The finished compost has forest scent, crumbly brown material. If you want, you can sift through (but not need to) and even give it to your plants right away, you can mix with potting soil but you can just use COMPOT compost for repotting because next to the matured compost there is coconut soil in it. Or keep it in a bag damp until transplanting. Put the incompletely composted pieces left after sieving back in the next cycle for further composting.

**DID YOU KNOW?** With 10 minutes of activity per week, the COMPOT system can compost up to 2 liters of your green kitchen waste - continuously! So you can make about 20-30 liters of finished compost a year. You can read more about the use of your finished compost in the appendix.

**DID YOU KNOW?** After removing the finished compost, you can wash the COMPOT pots with water or continue the cycle. Your pot will get a little discolored, as will other porous pots, because of the salts in our water. If it bothers you can use a scrubbing brush and a little baking soda and after vinegar to remove the discoloration from it.


If you feel that the composting process has slowed down / you would put more kitchen vegetable waste in it / it doesn't smell good, use more COMPOT activator mix and your waste should be moist enough in the pot everywhere. Also neem oil dissolved in water also helps to keep you composting in healthy conditions and helps to keep the problems of fruit flies under control (you can read about this more in the appendix).



# APPENDIX

## EASILY COMPOSTABLE LIST

The most important and critical point is the quality of the organic waste going into the composter pots. We would like to point out that larger fruit and vegetable residues, peelings and cores are need to be cutted into **SMALLER PIECES**. In addition, remove the plastic stickers and packaging from the fruit peel, or elastics and tapes from the vegetables. And you also need to mix your decomposing waste with a compost activator and water for the composting to work.

| WHAT?   |   | HOW?   |
|---|--|--|
| Fruit leftovers<br><i>(peels, cores, leaves, moldy parts)</i>     |  | 1-2 up to 3 cm<br>cut into pieces  |
| Vegetable leftovers<br><i>(peels, cores, leaves, moldy parts)</i> |  | 1-2 up to 3 cm<br>cut into pieces  |
| Potato peel   | <p>It will compost more slowly(as it is a root vegetables, don't be afraid!</p> <p>We recommend to try out a waste-saving recipe, often vegetable scraps can turn into a real feast.</p> |  |
| Not so beautiful<br>fruits and vegetables                         |  | We recommend that you cut out the bad parts and use the rest in a recipe to save waste and create more delicious food! |
| Whittered potted plants and their old<br>potting soil             |  | Cut into pieces of maximum 3 cm<br>wilted flowers, potted plants<br>and their soil                                     |
| Bio banana peel and bio squeezed<br>citrus                        |  | 1-2 up to 3 cm<br>cut into pieces  |
| Coffee grounds, used tea/herbal tea<br>leaves with teafilter      |  | Use it as it is, Tear up the teafilter   |
| Eggshell  |  | dried and grinded or crushed finely  |

## COMPOST SLOWLY, WEEKLY SMALL AMOUNT IS COMPOSTABLE

Cooked food: If it is still edible, we recommend using it in a new dish to save food-waste.

You can put small amounts of spoiled potatoes / pasta / rice in your compost. But fatty / oily / milky / meaty foods should be avoided.

Potato peels: just recommended in small quantities, cutted and hide it in the compost

Breads: If it is still edible, we recommend using it in waste saving recipe.

We have also tested moldy bread in COMPOT and it works in small quantities / chopped up and mixed with water.

Rotten onion/garlic: They have essential oils and they are smelly when they decompose. We recommend to hide it in the compost and use in small quantity.

## COMPOSTABLE OUTDOOR, HARDLY COMPOSTABLE INDOOR

Seeds of stone fruits and peanut/sunflowerseed husk

They decompose in more than a year so we do not recommend the indoor composter. But you can make a cherry cushion out of it or put it in the garden compost.

Cutings of nails / hairs

Keratin, from which our hair and nails are made, decomposes in over a year so we don't recommend it in an indoor compost, but in a garden it does.

Twigs and branches

Lignin decompose also slower and need higher temperature compost, we recommend in garden compost

## NOT COMPOSTABLE

Plastic packaging (*strips, rubbers, holders on fruits / vegetables*)

You can tear the tea strainer and part of the tea can be composted.

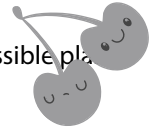
Biodegradable (or oxidatively degradable) plastic packaging is not compostable in a household. Most biodegradable plastics are designed for composting in industrial conditions and cannot be degraded in home composters (garden and indoor). Unfortunately, there is no uniform "home compostable" label yet, so these biodegradable plastics can be collected not in the plastic waste bin but in the mixed waste.

Paper packaging, newspapers, publications

Rather, collect them in the paper selective because it is better to recycle. If you run out of compost activator, feel free to use shredded paper waste or old potting soil.

Used handkerchiefs, wipes, napkins

They should be mixed in the trash due to the risk of infection and possible plastic / fat / milk content.



Cigarette butt

Cigarette paper also contains plastic, in addition to many harmful, toxic substance

Waste contaminated with fat / oil / dairy products

They block the path of oxygen so that the decomposing microorganisms cannot function optimally, causing rot, degrading the quality of the compost and stinking.

Non bio citrus fruits and other imported goods (peel of citrus fruits, bananas, other citrus fruits) Untreated organic citrus fruits can be composted, non bio citrus has too much risk to compost because the carcinogenic chemicals that was treated.

Pet feces

They can attract organisms that we don't want in our compost and there is a risk of infection.

Contents of vacuum cleaner bag and swept dust

The contents of the vacuum cleaner bag are contaminated with plastic and scrap metal so they are not recommended for composting.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) LONGER VERION ONLINE



## WHAT KIND OF CITY SOLUTIONS ARE?

Organic kitchen waste accounts for an average of 1/3 of household waste in the EU. After all, this is our biggest waste stream in our household. About half of this would be avoidable waste, so our primary way to treat organic waste is to reuse and PREVENT food waste (see 'What do I do with my too much decomposing waste?') There are also different options in the city to manage your organic waste.

- If you have your own garden, garden composting is the best option.
- If you live in a flat that has a garden, community composting with your neighbors is a great solution.
- If you do not have a common composter yet in your block of flats, sometimes you can request a composter from the local municipalities, so it is worth to ask around. But you can also build or buy it yourself. If you want to know more about community/neighbourhood composting, you can find a lot of information for your city/municipality online.
- If you don't have the opportunity to compost inside or in flat community, check to see if there is a community composting point in your area or a household where your compost will be housed. There are several community composting points in our town (Budapest), which you can find with a short walk and interest.
- Or, if not, you can undertake to set up a community composting point. The [www.sharewaste.com](http://www.sharewaste.com) site helps you find the collection points closest to where you live: I also use and receive this from people in my neighborhood if there is space in my COMPOT composters and I distribute my extra mature compost.
- If you want to compost right in your kitchen without access to a garden or indoor composting is not an option, there are several indoor options to help you turn your organic waste into mature compost without a garden access.

### Indoor composting solutions:

- Worm composting, vermicompost: This composting method uses composting worms (red wiggler or other species that can compost) that feed on organic matter and speed up the composting process. The bin can be made at home from plastic, wood or other materials, but you can also buy ready-made composting bin.
- Anaerobic, Bokashi Pre-Composter: This is a plastic container in which a pre-composting process starts indoors with the aid of a bran inoculated with anaerobic microorganisms which pre-ferment organic matter in the container and then you have to dig away in soil your pre-fermented bokashi mass.

- Aerobic composting clay pot (e.g. COMPOT): Clay COMPOT pots are porous, so they breathe, cool and deodorize to provide optimal conditions for composting.

### OPTIMAL COMPOSTING ENVIRONMENT

Forest floor = Compost factory. Most people think the process of composting stinks, but that's a misconception. Composting is decay, which happens continuously in the forest floor. During composting, organic matter is broken down into minerals by microorganisms and other living organisms in the presence of oxygen. Some of them are converted into humic substances. The end product of the process is the finished compost. COMPOT brings this natural process to your kitchen.

The right conditions include the optimal ratio of temperature, humidity and carbon and nitrogen-rich organic waste. This will make your COMPOT odorless and functional.

Ideal temperature: 16-28 degrees Celsius. This is an indoor composting so a balcony / staircase is not the most ideal solution. due to the risk of freezing or being too hot. The ratio of organic plant waste / compost activator (and torn paper/old potting soil) should be 70% -30%. Humidity: 60-70% is ideal, which means so much moisture that it is wet to the touch, but no water flows from it, this is the feeling of the underground in the forest. It works in an ideal environment by adding about 1-2 liters of decomposing waste per week. If you add more then you will need to use more compost activator and your pots will be full earlier.

80-96 liters of decomposing waste per year will be about 15-30 liters of finished compost because, based on the composting process, organic plant waste loses its volume while decomposing

### HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY COMPOST IS READY? (*Compost test*)

The finished compost is dark brown, crumbly, and parts of the starting waste are not recognizable in it. By sifting, we remove our finished compost from even larger pieces. It is good to use our compost as soon as possible, as it is a material full of microorganisms. If not used immediately, store in a dark bag, moist. We can also do a germination test with it if we are not sure if it is ready. test: sprinkle sproutable seeds that are easily germinating on top of the compost, water and the seeds should germinate from our compost within 3-4 days.

### HOW DO I COLLECT MY KITCHEN BIOWASTE?

It is recommended to PREcollect the decomposing waste on your kitchen counter in a container that can be closed with a lid for composting. It could be an old 1 liter box. The important thing is to keep it tightly closed and close to the cutting board in your kitchen, where most of your kitchen waste is generated. Sprinkle some activator in your precomposter if it smells bad.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I HAVE TOO MUCH BIOWASTE?

We share more (organic)waste reduction tips on our socials and website. Research shows that we consume more and 1/3 of our foodwaste could be saved. The COMPOT container was also designed to draw attention to the problems foodwaste. If too much kitchen waste is suddenly produced after a large amount of cooking, it is recommended to freeze it above 5 liters and place it in the composter in liter portions later. You can even look for a community compost point or sharewaste point near you for your surplus.

den, large amount of decomposing kitchen waste. Believe me, we could save a lot more decomposing waste from our trash and our composters than you think.

Most of the food waste generated in households, 63%, is disposed of as municipal waste, which is the most unfavorable waste management solution for our environment. We are facing a problem that would exceptionally require more attention than more money. "Some ideas for saving food waste:<https://stopfoodwaste.org/tips>

### WHY WE DON'T RECOMMEND CITRUS FRUIT PEELS IN COMPOST?

Citrus fruits are not recommended for composting because on the one hand they decompose much more slowly and on the other hand their peel is treated with a number of chemicals to get them to store shelves fresh. And some of them are carcinogenic. You can put organic citrus fruits and banana peel in the COMPOT composter.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY COMPOST SMELL?

- Too much organic waste got into the container at once.
- The container is compacted / too wet.
- Potatoes, onions and cabbage got into the pot in large quantities

Just mix with a spoon your compacted compostable, cut the bigger pieces in smaller, add 2-3 handful of activator/or old potting soil in the pot. And check to have everywhere moist.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE ENVIRONMENT IS TOO WET IN THE COMPOSTING POT?

We poured too much water on it or added too much decomposing waste. COMPOT is made of clay so it breathes on the sides, which helps the excess moisture to evaporate. But if it is too wet, mix more compost activator in the bowl and aerate the compost by stirring. Wait a week and do not add decomposing waste.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE ENVIRONMENT IS TOO DRY IN THE COMPOSTING POT?

- The dish is not in an ideal location (eg direct cookies in the sun).
- The top of the pan remained open.

Pour a glass of water to moist your composter, the excess will drain out at the bottom. Microorganisms that help break down do not work without the presence of water and oxygen.

### WHAT IS IN THE COMPOT ACTIVATORS?

It makes our indoor composter work. It is a mixture that allows you to maintain the optimal conditions for your compost in your indoor clay composter. Its main ingredients are high-carbon dry matter, which maintains the carbon / nitrogen balance, a clay mineral that helps with deodorization and moisture absorption, and a microbiological preparation that activates the compost, which speeds up the composting process with the help of the microorganisms it contains. It is a mixture to maintain optimal conditions for your compost in your indoor aerobic ceramic composter. Its key ingredients are: high dry matter - coconut coir- to maintain a carbon/nitrogen

balance; mixture of volcanic rock powder to help deodorise and recharge mineral content; and dry beneficial micro-organisms to help break down your decomposing kitchen waste and speed up the composting process. The contents of this bag contain enough for filling with biowaste 1 Compot pot, which will make about 8 litres of mature compost and will be enough for 2 months. USAGE: At the time of each feeding biowaste, also put at least one handful of compost activator on top of the biowaste to cover the decomposing waste. Water it to keep the materials damp to be composted in the pot as the forest floor is working.

### WHAT IS WITH THE FRUIT FLIES?

Fruitflies and gnats are not popular guests in the kitchens, but they are not always in our kitchen because of the composting process. They live on the peels of the fruits and hatch on them when fruit ripens, and they multiply easily. We can keep our composter muscivora free by following a few rules.

Let's not leave overripe fruits in our kitchen.

We always cover our pre-collection container and the COMPOT container as well.

Mix your fresh waste with the compost activator and cover it with hemp carpet or used paper waste.

If muscivora do appear, we recommend using the Neem oil from the COMPOT package: we can alarm them with a mixture of 10 drops of neem and 1.5-2 dl of water. Also, neem oil changes the hormone balance of insects and so we can reduce their numbers..

### WHAT ELSE ARE LIVING IN THE COMPOST?

The compost activator contains a large amount of bacteria, fungus protozoas and archaea that are useful in composting, which means that many invisible decomposing organisms "work" in our compost. In addition, you can see larger macroorganisms like potworms, springtails, rot-polies, fungi mycelium. It is good to use neem products in balancing good composting bacteria and retaining the numbers of other organisms.

### WHAT IS NEEM OIL?

Melia Azadirachta (Neem) oil. Neem has been used in India since 2000 BC and is considered a sacred tree in ancient writings and is referred to as the "cure for all diseases". A number of scientific publications have proven the effectiveness of neem oil against bacteria, parasites and insects. Neem wood is used in agriculture as a fertilizer, pesticide and insecticide. A fast-growing tree native to India, Pakistan and Burma. Neem oil is harmless to mammals and composting soil organisms and its substances only affect the hormonal system of flying insects, making it suitable for use against hundreds of pests. USAGE: Pour 5-10 drops into a pump bottle and dilute with lukewarm water and spray it into and around the composter.

### WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO ON HOLIDAYS?

There is nothing to do. Leave the COMPOT at home with the lid closed and mix in a larger amount of compost activator on top and sprinkle due to moisture levels. Microorganisms will continue to compost without us under optimal conditions and when you get home there will be more space in the composting bin and also you can harvest your own compost).





COM  
POST

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