



User Guide

You don't need a
degree in composting!

Unlike tumblers (which need daily turning) and single bins (which require regular mixing and aeration) Earthmaker gets on with the job with minimal effort on your part.

Just move material through about once a month.

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From the garden: Use dry leaves, grass cuttings, weeds (see next slide) and tree trimmings. If possible use a shredder or to mince up larger pieces. NOTE: Large amounts of grass cuttings all at once can become slimy. Store excess leaves and/or grass in a simple bin alongside and use it to layer over kitchen waste as it is added. This reduces the attraction of flying insects.



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Weeds like oxalis and some seeds (e.g. tomato and pumpkin) may germinate. Place weeds in a black garden bag and leave it in hot sun for a few weeks to sterilise before feeding them to your Earthmaker.

NB: Avoid weed killer containing Chlopyralid on material to be composted - the resulting compost may distort some plants.



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From the kitchen: Use vegetable and fruit scraps (chopping up aids 'digestion'), also coffee grounds, tea bags, vacuum cleaner dust, paper kitchen towels. Avoid meat or fatty foods – they attract unwanted wildlife.

Avoid large helpings of any one type – a varied diet works best. Lining your scrap bin with newspaper will make it easier to empty, and the paper adds carbon to the mix.





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Mixing and stirring material in the top chamber can be useful. Use the Push-Pull-Tool carefully – vigorous action may dislodge shelves.

Do not overload the top chamber. NB: Do not expect material to turn into compost in the top chamber – Earthmaking is a three-stage process!



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EVERY MONTH or so ...

Remove the Pull-out Panel (POP) and use the Push-Pull-Tool (PPT) to gently push material down into the middle chamber. Start with the material in the front.

Some people like to introduce composting worms but worms usually find their own way into the material at all levels. Replace the Pull-out Panel.

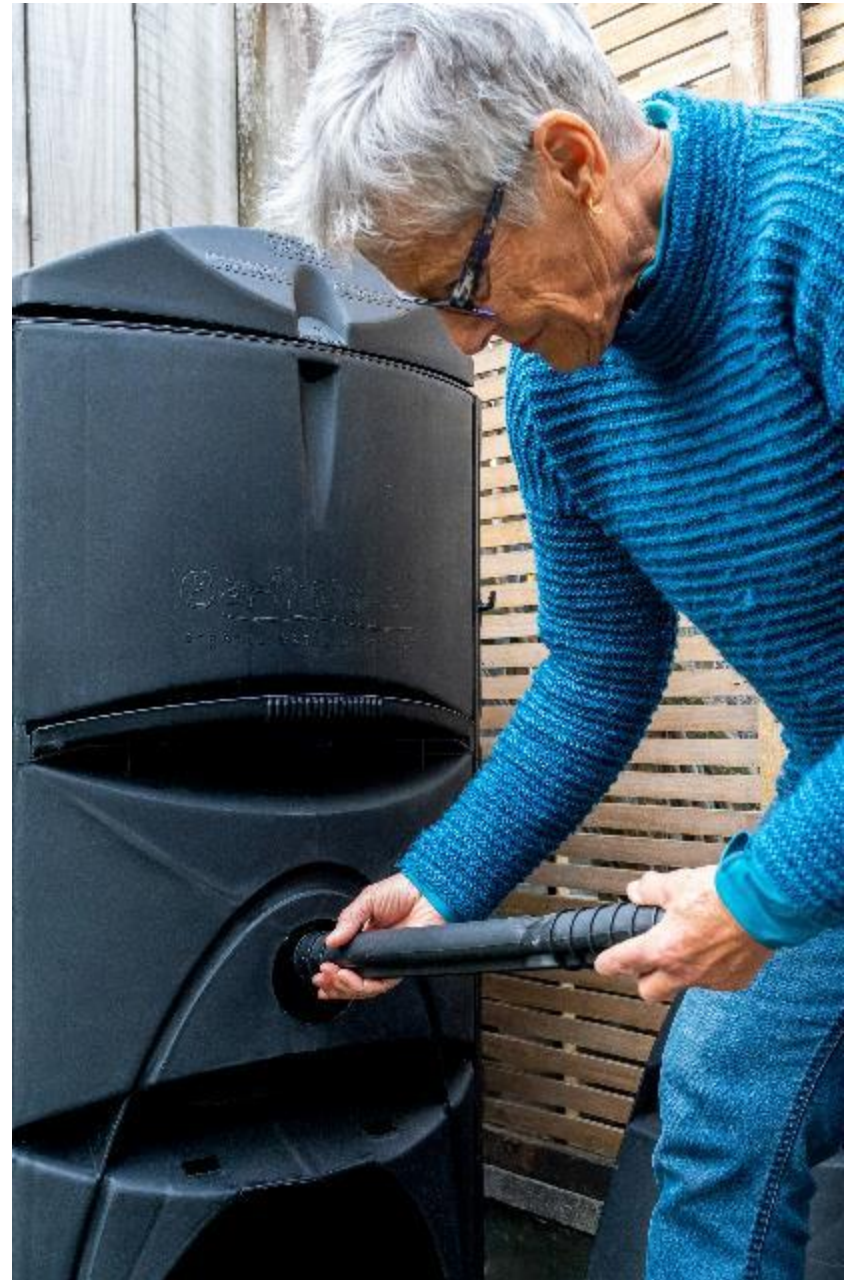


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Before moving material down from the top again, clear the middle chamber. **Use the PPT through the round access hole above the door opening** to push material to the back so it falls to the bottom chamber.

When your Earthmaker has been in operation for a few months, micro-organisms and worms will find their way into the material naturally and become established in the shelf grooves. Do not wash the shelves clean as the older matter serves to accelerate the process.





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Before clearing the middle chamber, pull the mulch/compost in the bottom chamber through to the front using the PPT.





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Remove compost with a long-handled shovel. Take care not to damage the lower shelf.

Place compost directly on the garden or around shrubs, or dig in for new planting.

There should be plenty of healthy earthworms – so maybe leave the birds to have a party before planting.

If your compost is too rich for new seedlings, dilute with potting mix or sand /soil.





Happy
Earthmaking!

