

COMPOSTING TUMBLERS

Tumblers take the work out of composting!

How does this type of composting work?

Tumblers are enclosed drums or cylindrical composters that are mounted on a base or stand. The use of stands keeps the drum off the ground keeping them away from rodents.

Tumblers, like all composters, involve the decomposition of organic wastes by micro-organisms. However, because tumblers allow the materials to be mixed and turned more easily they produce finished compost in a shorter time. Tumblers are also usually fitted with baffles or inserts that help the mixing of the material so the only work you have to do is turn it!



Tumblers are usually quite compact and don't need grass or ground to encourage decomposition - some can even be attached to the wall. This makes them ideal for patio areas and small gardens with limited space.



Tumblers come in a variety of different shapes and sizes. They vary in capacity from 125 (1.25 kg per day) to 270 litres (2.5 kg per day).

Some tumblers allow you to collect compost tea separately from the compost. This compost tea is a brilliant liquid fertiliser which when diluted can be used anywhere in your garden or on house plants.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this system?

Advantages	Disadvantages
Allow easy mixing and turning of waste organic material	Can be an expensive composting option though you can make your own
When fitted with wheels can be easily moved from one location to another - move the bin to the waste or bring the compost to where it is needed	Some users report that the cranks and rollers can get jammed with compost. This makes them difficult to turn.
Drums built on stands and bases - less susceptible to rodents	When full can be heavy and difficult to turn

Cost
Tumblers are more expensive than traditional composters. Depending on the model they can cost anywhere between €100 - €400. However their ease of operation compensates for their higher cost.

