Use this quick start guide to help you get hot composting in your HOTBIN. It is possible to reach 40-60°C within 48 hours if you have the right waste mix available, but often it takes a little longer to keep the temperature between 40-60°C you will need to feed your HOTBIN regularly. There is more detailed information in our extensive FAQ online at www.hotbincomposting.com

**WASTE TABLE**

Bacteria digest some waste faster than others depending on texture, particle size and composition. A way to look at waste is how easy it is for the bacteria to decompose it. One way to look at waste is how easy it is for the bacteria to decompose it.

| Easy to Digest and will generate heat quickly |
| Chicken pellets & poop Grass |
| Blood & bone meal |
| Nettles & comfrey |
| All food waste including: plate scrapings, all meat & fish waste, pasta, rice, Moody bread and cakes |

| Medium to digest and will generate heat slowly |
| Vegetables & fruit peelings Parental Letter & envelopes |
| Straw & shredded paper |
| Corrugated cardboard |
| NB smaller pieces increase speed |

| Hard to digest and will generate heat slowly |
| Sawdust & shavings Twigs |
| Woodchip & shavings |
| Newspaper |
| Card & paper bags & card |
| Pet bedding |
| NB smaller pieces increase speed |

NB When you have got your HOTBIN working efficiently at temperatures between 40-60°C there is no reason why you can’t add things like chicken carcasses and bones into the HOTBIN.

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1. **Assembly and set up checks**

   - Pull in cam straps Fig 4 light and open aeration valve Fig 6 to minimum.

2. **You need a basic layer**

   - In the early days you should only rely on the temperature from the long stemmed thermometer Fig 17 inside the HOTBIN.

3. **It’s cold outside**

   - If it is < 5°C outside use the Winter Kick-Start Heater. It works in the HOTBIN and gives an accurate reading.

4. **The temperature**

   - Leave the hatch door panel in place until you are ready to collect your first batch of compost or wish to recycle the very bottom of the base layer.

5. **Feeding your HOTBIN**

   - During the first 30 days you can add food waste at any time. But only add fresh food waste if you are hot composting between 40-60°C.

6. **Removing compost**

   - Depending on your HOTBIN start, your base layer may not have broken down and you will need to recycle the remaining compost through the HOTBIN mixed with plenty of fresh waste for the very best results.

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There is no assembl required as your HOTBIN comes ready to use. Place it on a flat, hard surface preferably on a slab in the sun or shade.

The first thing you need to do is put in the two cam straps Fig 9. They should be pulled tight across the bottom and top of the hatch panel Fig 8.

Your HOTBIN needs aeration. Please open the aeration valve Fig 9 or open the hatch door Fig 10 and set to its minimum. Also check nothing is blocking the aeration mesh plate Fig 9.

Remember heat will be lost when the lid is open, so unless adding food waste, keep it closed at all times. Always check there is a waste on the well lip, brush into the HOTBIN to prevent it dropping the lid open.

A good base layer will have plenty of easy to digest waste that has been chopped up and chopped in. This will help you generate heat more quickly adding an agent to create a good structure to maintain aeration.

Items like grass, chicken poop or pebbles, shredded off paper and corrugated cardboard can help the bacteria generate heat better. See the waste table below.

You may have enough waste available to get going straightaway. If you put it all in the HOTBIN, the more the merrier.

If you do not have enough waste, be patient, build up your base layer with materials become available. The temperature will build up more slowly.

Only add the very top layer of an old compost heap which has not composted as it has high energy waste to get started.

You can add kitchen peelings to your HOTBIN at anytime. But only add fresh food waste if you are hot composting between 40-60°C.

In winter you may need to chop things up before adding and separate out the very bottom of the base layer at around 30 days and recycle what you do not wish to recycle.

In the early days you should only rely on the temperature from the long stemmed thermometer Fig 17.

Although the thermometer in the HOTBIN lid is very convenient, only measure the temperature of the waste you are in the HOTBIN. The HOTBIN needs to be around 50% full and running between 40-60°C before the lid thermometer gives an accurate reading.

You should aim to feed your HOTBIN 1 x food caddies 2 x week. As temperatures rise start adding ALL food waste mixed with bulking agent Fig 52. Mix it in a cup of 1 part to 1 part food waste – this equates to 2 handfuls per person of food waste.

As temperatures rise adding ALL food waste mixed with bulking agent Fig 52. Mix it in a cup of 1 part to 1 part food waste – this equates to 2 handfuls per person of food waste.

For the very first time you need to do is place your HATCH on the very bottom of the base layer. This equates to 2 handfuls per person of food waste.

If you are setting up in winter, and a neighbour for waste, add plenty of composted cardboard, paper, saw manure or chicken poop if you can get your hands on it or try chicken pellets from the garden centre.

In the early days you should only rely on the temperature from the long stemmend thermometer Fig 17 inside the HOTBIN.

You should aim to feed your HOTBIN 1 x food caddies 2 x week as a minimum. Temperatures will fall if the HOTBIN is not topped up with fresh waste every 2-3 days.

As temperatures rise adding ALL food waste mixed with bulking agent Fig 52. Mix it in a cup of 1 part to 1 part food waste – this equates to 2 handfuls per person of food waste.

If your HOTBIN is not reaching 40°C go to the online FAQ. By far the most common cause is lack of waste and lack of easy to digest waste. The very first time you need to do is place your HATCH on the very bottom of the base layer.

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**Fig 1**

**Fig 2**

**Fig 3**

**Fig 4a**

**Fig 4b**

**Fig 5**

**Fig 6**

**Fig 7**

**Fig 8**

**Fig 9**

**Fig 10**

**Fig 11**

**Fig 12**

**Fig 13**

**Fig 14**

**Fig 15**

**Fig 16**

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**STARTING YOUR HOTBIN**

A quick way to help you get hot composting in your HOTBIN.