

Join the Compost Revolution



Green Cone Solar Composter

This essentially maintenance-free composter recycles any food waste (inc. meat, fish, bones, fruit, dairy) as well as pet waste, into nutrients that enrich the surrounding soil. Utilising an in-ground chamber and innovative twin cone system to circulate warm air between the two cones, it creates the perfect environment for worms and micro-organisms to work their magic at speed.

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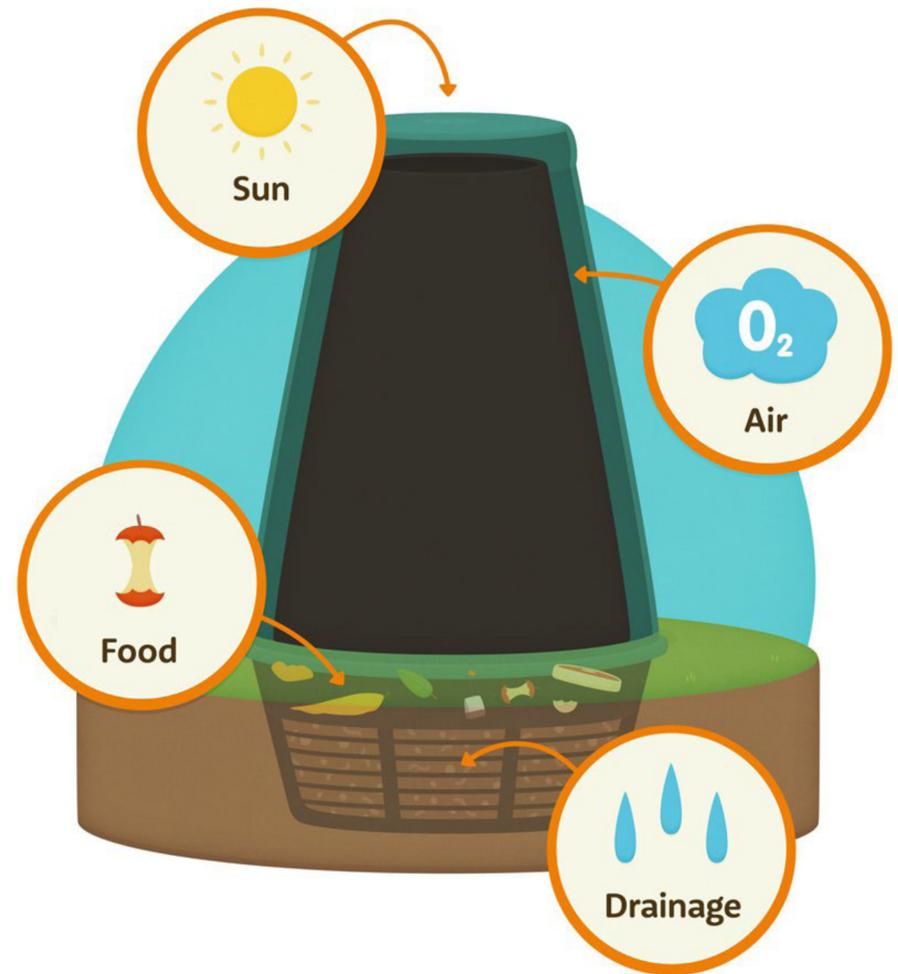
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1 The basics

How do you turn all of your food and pet waste into a rich healthy compost that nourishes the soil with the least maintenance?

Through the power of the sun, well drained soil, good bacteria and an army of wriggly creatures with healthy appetites! The secret of keeping your solar cone powering is location and a well-balanced diet.

1 The basics



To thrive, a Green Cone needs: its basket to be below ground, a balanced diet, direct sunlight and well-drained soil.

1 The basics



Tips

Green Cones are far less fussy than their composting cousins. You can throw in all cooked and raw food, including meat, fish, bones, bread, dairy, vegetables, fruit, even pet poo! (in small amounts and depending on location).

You don't need to turn your scraps, add water or harvest compost. Once set up in a sunny place in your garden, the Green Cone is self-sufficient and fuss-free.

1 The basics



Did you know?

- ✓ It's best to *avoid* food waste in the first place.
- ✓ One way to do this is to plan your weekly meals in advance. This will allow you to save money because you'll only be purchasing the ingredients that you need.
- ✓ Visit [Love Food Hate Waste](#) to learn more.

② The perfect home

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Your Green Cone needs to be set up in an easily accessible spot with maximum sunlight and good drainage.



Sunshine

The Green Cone is solar-powered. It's doubled-walled cones circulate hot air, speeding up decomposition.

For best results set your cone up in a spot that gets maximum sunlight.

2 The perfect home



Tips

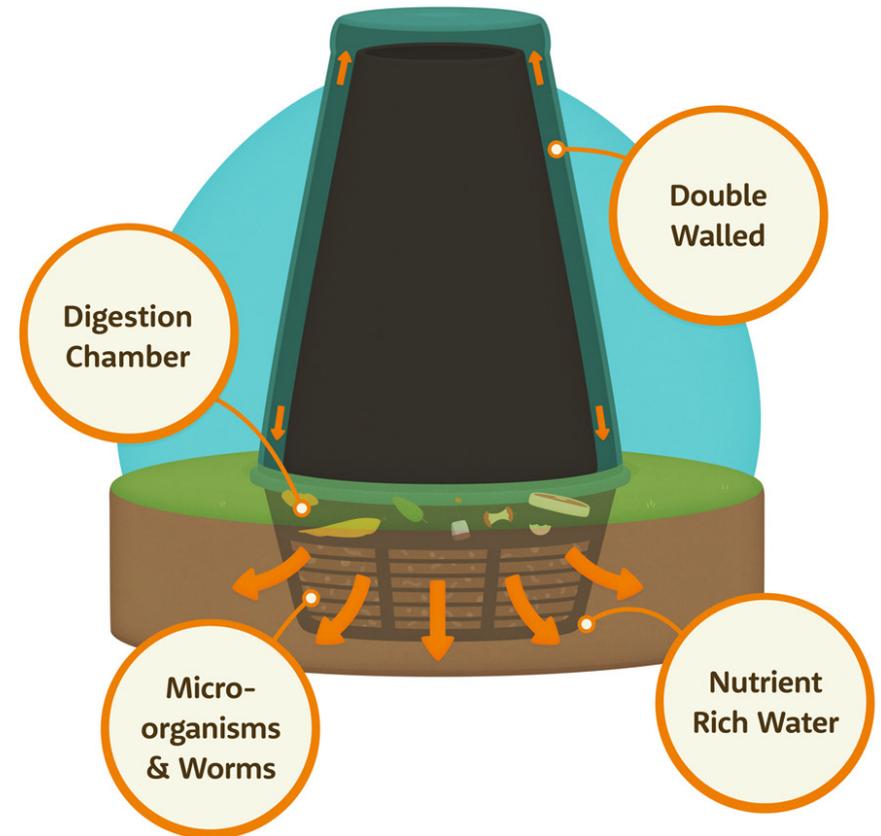
If you don't have the right tools for digging, find your nearest tool library online and borrow some basic digging equipment. You can also use services like [Airtasker](#), [Hire a Hubby](#) or the [Grey Army](#) if you need help digging the hole.

You can improve drainage in heavy clay soil with a mixed layer of gravel and compost around the digestion basket.

Did you know?

Many of the microorganisms that naturally break down organic material live in the top 4 inches of soil. The underground digestion basket allows them to come and go freely.

2 The perfect home



Create good drainage

The Green Cone will thrive in fertile, well-drained soil. Avoid areas of solid rock, clay, or anywhere near a water table or flood-prone areas. If in doubt add a bucket of water to the hole to test drainage. If the water doesn't drain into the soil within 15 minutes, find a spot with better drainage.

② The perfect home

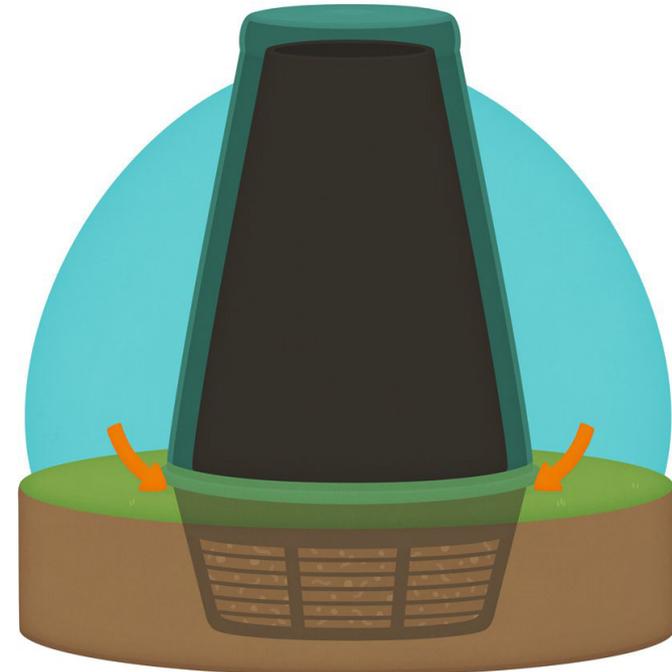


Dig a hole

To get started dig a hole 80cm wide x 60cm deep in well-drained soil. If your soil is chalk or clay based, dig deeper and wider to about 90cm wide x 70cm deep.

New to digging holes? Check out [this article](#).

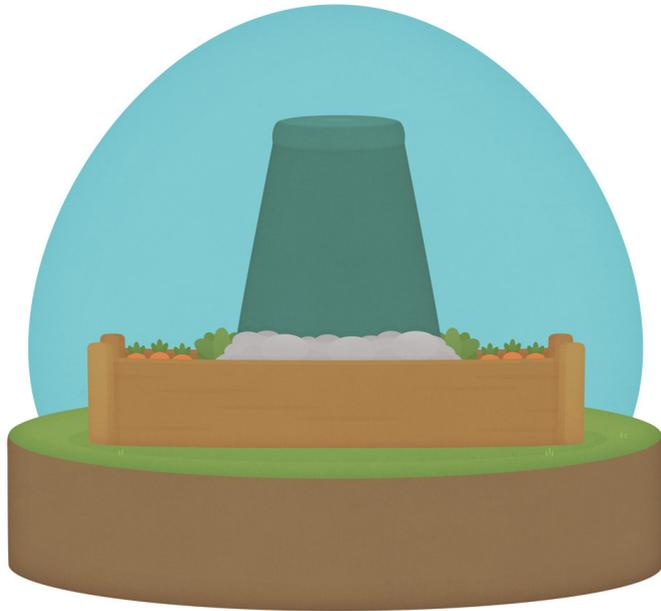
② The perfect home



Going underground

Make sure the top of the basket and the bottom lip of the outer cone are below ground level and always fully covered with soil. This is critical to good composting and to minimise smells that could attract vermin.

2 The perfect home



Raised beds

If you have clay or chalk-based soil, or are short on yard space, try using a raised bed. Dig a 30cm deep hole, fill it with small stones, place the cone on top of the stones at ground level and create a rockery around the basket. Leave a 15cm gap around the cone and backfill with soil or use wooden slats. If adding pet poo, locate the Green Cone away from water sources, edible plants and trees, including nuts and citrus, just in case.

3 A balanced diet

Technically anything organic (once living) can go in your Green Cone, but it's best to get the balance right by following these simple guidelines.

③ A balanced diet



Food scraps

The Green Cone can digest just about anything, including meat, fish, poultry, bones, bread, dairy, vegetables, fruit, tea bags made from natural fibres, coffee grounds, egg shells, even a little pet poo!

③ A balanced diet



Garden waste and pet poo

The key is getting the right balance, especially when it comes to garden waste and pet poo. A big quantity of pet poo will clog the unit and slow down the digestion process. As a rule, no more than a few handfuls once a week should be added. Garden waste, especially large quantities should be avoided. Kitty litter should not be added at all.

4 Feeding your Green Cone

Feed your Green Cone as often as you like, just remember to close the flip lid tight so you do not attract vermin or fruit flies.

4 Feeding your Green Cone



Add your waste

In a sunny spot with well-drained soil you should be able to add about 4 litres/4 kg of food waste to your unit weekly. This is the average amount created by a family of four.

4 Feeding your Green Cone



The right amount

Like all compost systems its best to start slower and build up to the full capacity. With the Green Cone this only takes a few weeks.

4 Feeding your Green Cone



Tips

The amount of waste your Green Cone can break down depends on its temperature, the population of bacteria and the mix of waste added.

Did you know?

Microorganisms thrive in the heat, so digestion will slow down during the colder months. Don't fret if you find that the level of scraps is not going down when the temperature drops – this is only natural and can be boosted with the help of our accelerant, sold separately. Whatever you do, don't use chemicals as you might kill the beneficial bacteria.

5 Avoiding problems

5 Avoiding problems

The Green cone is fuss free and you won't have any problems with smells, pests or other problems if it is properly buried, has sun, drainage and a balanced diet. In case things don't go to plan, here's a guide on how to fix them.



Slow going

If your cone is filling too fast it usually means you are overloading it with food. This can happen if you add too much of one type of food, especially slow to compost varieties, such as corn husks. Overfeeding doesn't allow space for the contents to break down.

5 Avoiding problems



Did you know?

Decomposition can also become sluggish if your cone is:

- ✓ Set up in a dark, shady area;
- ✓ The soil is chalky or clay based or doesn't drain well;
- ✓ The black basket is below the water table or in an area where water collects.

5 Avoiding problems



Mould

In a healthy working Green Cone your food waste will be covered in a blue/gray fur. This shows that the bacteria is doing its job. If you don't see bacteria, never fear because this is not an essential part of the decomposition process.

5 Avoiding problems



Smells

The Green Cone has a hinged lid that seals in the air. If it's set up in the right way it should not smell. Like all composters, in the wrong conditions the contents can become smelly, wet and slimy. Bad drainage or heavy rain are often the cause, leaving the waste to fester in water instead of seeping into the surrounding soil. If the contents of your cone start to smell, look wet and slimy, and show no signs of drying out, find a warm, dry, well-drained area to relocate your cone.

5 Avoiding problems



Tips

It's a good idea to use a kitchen caddy with a sealed lid to keep your scraps in before adding them to your Green Cone. You can also freeze food scraps before adding them. Both methods will lower the risk of flies getting into the cone.

Try not to spill food near the Green Cone as this could attract rodents and other animals. If you typically get rats in your area they may discover your Green Cone despite your best efforts. If this happens (or you want to be sure it doesn't!) you can add chicken wire around the black basket to prevent rats from digging under and gnawing through into the food basket.

5 Avoiding problems



Flies

This sealed unit shouldn't attract fruit flies, unless their eggs travel in on fruit skins that hatch inside the Green Cone. But life is an ecosystem after all, and the good news is that they will help digest food waste faster! If food or food waste is not kept covered before going into the Green Cone, houseflies may lay eggs before the food reaches the unit. It's important to always keep your Green Cone lid closed.

5 Avoiding problems



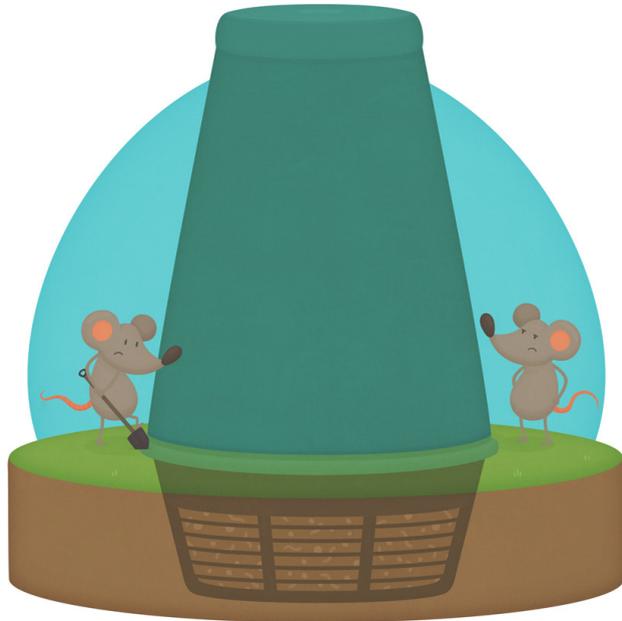
Did you know?

The Green Cone is made in Canada and is designed to be bear resistant. By keeping the lid closed tight you can deter bandicoots, possums, rodents and curious dogs.

Warning!

Never use a chemical pest spray inside the cone because it will kill the beneficial bacteria and potentially poison the soil.

5 Avoiding problems



Vermin

With the right set up your Green Cone will not create any smells that could attract vermin. Proper coverage (the top of the black basket and the bottom lip of the outer cone below ground level), will filter out any odours that could attract vermin into the surrounding soil.

6 Maintenance

Unlike traditional compost, this low-maintenance unit doesn't need stirring, aeration or emptying.

⑥ Maintenance



No fuss!

With sun, drainage and a good diet, your Green Cone won't overflow and will only need a clean every 2-3 years.

⑥ Maintenance



Tips

- ✓ Wet and slimy waste in your cone means you need a new spot with maximum sunlight and good drainage. For best results, avoid cold, dark, wet places in the yard.
- ✓ If the residue builds up to ground level without going down you can remove the upper cones to access the basket.

6 Maintenance



Did you know?

The residue is a great soil conditioner that can be buried in soil to improve fertility or added to a compost bin.

Recycle your food scraps!

Get a discounted compost bin or worm farm from your council and reduce what you send to landfill by half.

Composting at home is easy to do and avoids transporting food scraps to landfill where they produce harmful greenhouse gases as they break down. Our quick tutorial will show you how to recycle your food scraps, reduce your environmental footprint and make rich fertiliser for your garden.

www.compostrevolution.com.au

This project was supported by the Environmental Trust as part of the NSW EPA's Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy.

