

Compost Pros & Cons

TYPE

Tumbleweed Compost Barrel

Council Compost Bin

Aerobin

Compost Bay, 1 cubic metre

PROS

Fully contained, rodent & pest proof.

Materials break down quicker than an ordinary compost, though not necessarily as good quality a product (from 6 weeks, depending on how often the barrel is fed).

Easy to aerate through tumbling action.

Retains moisture better than a standard compost bin.

Can put new material in one end & harvest the finished product from the other.

Can put weeds & weed seeds in due to the ensured higher temperatures that will kill them.



Cheap and easy to set up.

Works well as a "constant feed" system, especially with a second bin if necessary for greater volume.

Easy to empty finished compost.

Produces good quality friable compost.



Easy to use, no turning involved, quick composting due to increased aeration.

Worms enjoy the Aerobin environment, especially in a shaded position. When composting has been established, the depth of the unit ensures enough mass for worms to shelter in during warmer temperatures. Fully contained, rodent and pest proof.

Can feed with a variety of foods & garden waste, including cheese & meat scraps.

Aesthetically pleasing colour.

Compact, tall shape suits smaller gardens where space is at a premium.



Little or no expense to set-up (can use recycled materials).

Can compost a variety of organic kitchen and garden waste, including bulkier spent garden plants, citrus & waste paper.

Easy to access & turn the pile contents as required.

Provided there is enough space, can compost a greater quantity of material through a number of bays on an ongoing basis, & therefore have more compost for use on the garden.



CONS

When full, can become difficult to turn due to the weight of the compost.

Can get too wet - need to monitor moisture levels.

More expensive than a standard compost bin.

Small opening limits the size of materials you can compost & makes harvesting a little more time consuming.

If you have worms in your system, they can easily be killed by overheating on hot days.

Rodents can be an issue, making their way into the compost from below. Can use wire mesh at base to deter but this can complicate harvesting.

Possums can remove the lid & feed on contents.

Composting process takes longer, between 4-6 months.

Aeration can be an issue depending on the mix of materials. Ensure there is adequate coarse material, or use some poly pipe to ensure air supply reaches into the pile.

Can dry out, need to ensure adequate moisture.

One of the more expensive composting options (\$380).

Cannot compost bulkier materials.

Requires constant, balanced feeding to ensure the system works well & doesn't dry out.

Difficult to keep rodents, possums or dogs out of the pile, & can attract snakes.

Hard to retain moisture (can use a piece of old carpet on a finished pile to retain moisture).

Requires more space, & at least two bays whilst one pile is left to complete the composting process.