

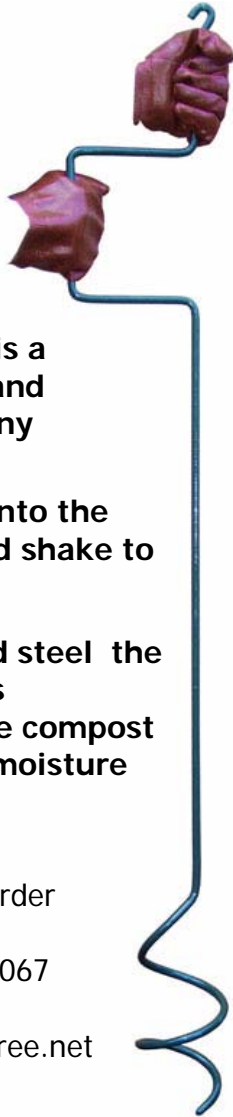
Spiral Compost Mixer™



It's the simplest and most effective method of mixing and aerating compost in your garden compost bin.

- The Spiral Compost Mixer is a hand held tool for mixing and aerating compost inside any garden compost bin.
- Simply turn the screw tip into the compost, then pull out and shake to mix and aerate.
- Made of hard wearing solid steel the Compost Mixer accelerates composting by aerating the compost and distributing bacteria, moisture and nutrients evenly.

For further information or to order (€14.95 plus p&p) telephone Dolmen-Designs on 087 926 3067 or email to: dolmencompostmixer@oceanfree.net



Instructions:



1) Pick a point on the surface of the compost and jab the screw tip an inch or two below the surface.



2) Screw down into the compost as far as desired by rotating the handle clockwise.



3) Pull up and shake the compost off the mixing tool, thereby mixing and exposing the compost to air. Repeat until all the compost is mixed and aerated.

Making compost quickly using the Spiral-Compost-Mixer™

Most domestic garden compost bins utilise a vertical composting system where fresh materials are added to the top and finished compost is removed from an opening in the bottom.

Begin by making a 6 - 12 inch base of dry materials "BROWNS" – (carbon-rich matter like branches, stems, dried leaves, peels, bits of wood, sawdust, shredded paper, conifer needles, egg shells, hay - giving your compost a light, fluffy body). Then add layers of wet materials "GREENS" – (nitrogen or protein-rich matter like uncooked vegetable food scraps, leafy materials like lawn clippings and green leaves).

The size of plant particles that go into the compost affects the rate of decay. Particles chopped into smaller pieces increase the surface area for microbes to operate but particles chopped too small will pack together and restrict air flow. Pieces of ½ to 1-½ inches produced by hand shredding are best. Woody materials also need to be chopped into a smaller size.

Continue adding alternately equal quantities of "browns" and "greens" as they arise, then mix and aerate.

A garden composting bin requires a mixing-tool to reach down inside the bin to stir and aerate the material on a regular basis. Turning and aerating your compost while remaining inside your compost bin is easy with the Spiral Compost Mixer. The mixer is repeatedly: screwed into the pile, then pulled out and the attached compost shaken off, so as to thoroughly mix and aerate the compost.

Keep your compost moist like a damp sponge. If the centre of the pile is too wet then add more "brown" material and mix. If too dry, moisten the materials with a little water or add more moist "greens" while mixing the pile.

You know you have finished compost when it is dark in colour, crumbly but not powdered and smells earthy. Squeeze a sample of the material in your hand, if it falls apart it is too dry, if it seeps water it is too moist. The ideal result would a mound of compost that remained the shape of your hand when clinched. These are indications that the compost has stabilized - or matured - and that the original raw organic material has been converted into nutrient-rich humus.

Sieve the compost through a one-half-inch mesh before using it. Material like roots and twigs that fail to fall through the screen can be thrown back into the bin for further composting.