

Bokashi Bins

Do your part for Mother Earth and be GREEN!!

There are various ways to approach organic waste management and different products.

Zero ORGANIC material to waste bins, thus no odours or flies

- Serve as garden or commercial compost with advantage of carbon sequestering – reduce your carbon footprint!!
- Decrease total household waste by almost 50%
- Increase safe handling of inorganic waste recycling

Bokashi:

First developed by ancient Japanese farmers, Bokashi increases nutrient levels in the soil with an infusion of beneficial, naturally occurring microorganisms.

Ingredients: wheat bran, purified & structured water, sugarcane blackstrap molasses, mineral rock salt, mineral powder

- safe, non-toxic compost starter
- house plants: ½ c per plant, 4 times a year
- lawn: 4 – 6 cups per sq metre, 4 times a year
- garden: 4 – 6 cups per sq metre at each new planting cycle
- kitty litter: ½ cup per 1 kg fresh litter: each time litter is replaced

make your own Bokashi bin:

- 2 white plastic buckets (The 18 litre bokashi bin is suitable for households of up to 6 people)
- 1 on top of the other
- make holes in the bottom of the top one: 6 inner & 18 outer holes

Tips from Gail (as done at De Langenhof Guest House):

- we have a 2 litre ice cream container on our kitchen counter top & 'everything' goes into it:
- all scrapings from plates go into the bin, cooked food, chicken & lamb bones, etc
- after tipping the contents into the Bokashi bin, I sprinkle ± 1 Tbspn Bokashi on top
- I use shredded newspaper, torn up egg boxes &/or torn up inners of toilet rolls to wipe out the ice cream container & sprinkle this on top
- tissues, paper towel, etc can also be added.

How does it work?

- ALL peels, food wastes, even bones (beware of dogs that dig) are placed in container – add pieces not bigger than 1 inch, or as small as possible
- Sprinkle *Bokashi Inoculant* over material every time you add waste – about a desert spoon evenly over a 1 inch layer – MOST IMPORTANT
- When the bucket is full, place the contents INSIDE compost, or bury the contents about 4 - 6 inches deep. If too deep it will not decompose quickly, however it will decompose eventually; the idea is partly a slow release of nutrients over time; this is a natural process.
- Inoculated organic material becomes compost in ± 6 weeks
- Make potting soil by alternate layering as much virgin soil as waste in a container each time waste is decanted – with soil on top of waste.
- section off a part of your garden and make a couple of holes for your kitchen waste
- make a big enough hole to bury the stuff and cover it with sufficient soil - compact it lightly
- next time round use the next hole and when you have the 6th hole filled your 1st should be ready

What about **Exudates** that forms in the bottom compartment?

- Use as plant food or soil conditioner: mix 10 ml extract with 0.5 to 1 litre water, & use as frequently as possible
- Add extra Effective Microbes (EM1) to organic waste for bigger volume of extracted nutrients from waste for plant food.
- Add to plants weekly with Eco Grow fish-emulsion.
- Liquid concentrate will also assist in keeping drains clear from fat build-up at a rate of 100 ml per basin per week.

Contacts for Bokashi and other natural products:

- Fritz Otto, Wellington at 082 805 8420 / fritz@agrisense.co.za also for Effective Microbes (EM1)
- Probiokashi (Pty) Ltd, La Source, Devon Valley, Stellenbosch: info@bokashi.co.za / 021 865 2832 / www.bokashi.co.za; Vernon: vernon@probio.co.za