

Komp 800 - rainproofing?

It's been brought to our attention that whilst the **Komp 800** is a tremendous bin for those with a large amount of compostable waste, the hinge along the lid allows a considerable amount of rain in, which is obviously less than ideal, especially in Shetland's climate.

Various solutions have been suggested, though. One solution is to create a flexible hinge-cover with a couple of strips of duck-tape or similar. Another is to lay a waterproof cover over the compost within the bin itself, although this doesn't prevent the water entering the bin, and could be tricky to retrieve without the water going over the compost. If you have a **Komp 800**, and have suffered from the same problem, but have solved it, let us know (Contact details on the front page!) and we'll let everyone else know how you did it.



Compost Bins from WRAP



You already have one compost bin, if you had two you could make twice as much compost! WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) will provide up to two compost bins to every household at reduced prices. There are two ways to purchase another bin:-

- You can order online by visiting www.wasteawareScotland.org.uk
- Or call the orderline on **0845 076 0223** (Calls are charged at UK local rates and lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday)

Although they're ordered from outwith the Isles, the bins are despatched from a store in Lerwick.

WRAP

Waste Aware
Scotland



natural
scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

If you have any questions about your compost please contact the Environmental Management team on **(01595) 744850**

COMPOST

newsletter no.3

Winter 09/10

Welcome to the third issue! Following last issue's advice on dealing with a compost bin that's too wet, this issue we look at how to deal with a compost bin/heap that appears to be doing nothing. If this is a problem you have please see inside for details.



We must take this opportunity to thank those of you who visited our compost workshops, Environmental Fair or came to see us at the events we attended last summer. It was great to meet so many people with an interest in composting and the environment! Look inside for details of this year's events.

We would also like to thank Larry Deyell for providing pictures of some of the unusual shaped vegetables he has grown this year in his raised beds, it goes to show that anybody can do it! We are especially fond of the "carrots of love".

We have been exploring our store and have turned up a small amount of replacement panels for the old wooden compost bins.



Contact us with your photos, tips and hints at -
email: waste@shetland.gov.uk
Phone: **(01595) 744850**
Or by post at:
Environment and Building Services
Infrastructure Services Dept.
Grantfield
Lerwick
SHETLAND
ZE1 0NT

If you need a replacement panel for your wooden compost bin then get in touch and we'll see what we can do. Be aware, though, that supplies are **EXTREMELY LIMITED** and it'll be first come first served.

If you would like to receive future copies of this newsletter by e-mail please let us know using the details on the left.

If you have any questions about your compost please contact the Environmental Management team on **(01595) 744850**

In Stock Now!



Ecomax 220I and 330I — Standard, cheap and effective. Although perhaps not the ideal bin for the Shetland climate (It may need some modification to prevent it from blowing away, or the lid from blowing off!) but used properly in a sheltered spot it works well, with the black colour helping absorb heat from the sun.

£5

Komp 320 — a great bin, for a great price. The thicker plastic gives better insulation from the cold, and the hinged lid means you'll never have to retrieve your lid from your neighbour's garden ever again! Easy access to your compost is achieved by swinging out the front sections.

£10



Composting Workshops In Your Area

After the success of last year's composting workshops, we are holding more this year! Come along and share your composting experiences, members of the environmental management team will be on hand to offer assistance and advice on how to compost.

Please feel free to join us from **7:00-8:30 pm** at the following locations:

- Tuesday 23rd February - Sandwick Carnegie Hall
- Tuesday 27th April - Mid Yell Hall
- Tuesday 2nd March - Scalloway Hall
- Tuesday 4th May - South Nesting Hall
- Tuesday 9th March - Walls Hall
- Tuesday 11th May - Whiteness & Weisdale Hall
- Tuesday 16th March - Symbister Hall
- Tuesday 18th May - North Roe Hall
- Tuesday 23rd March - Sound Hall
- Tuesday 25th May - Baltasound Hall
- Tuesday 30th March - Staney Hill Hall
- Tuesday 1st June - Aith Hall
- Thursday 8th April - Brae Hall
- Tuesday 8th June - Bressay Hall
- Tuesday 13th April - Boddam Hall

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Nothing Seems to be Happening!

Following on from the advice given in the last issue, this time we tackle another common problem, an “inactive” bin in which nothings seems to be happening.

1. Are you absolutely certain there's nothing happening in your compost bin? Unless you're regularly “turning” the contents, or checking what the compost is like at the bottom of the bin, you can't be sure nothing is happening. Before trying anything else, it might be worth opening the hatch on the front of the bin, or having a rummage to see what things are like at the bottom.
2. If, after checking, you've found no evidence of compost, don't be dismayed. Compost takes a little longer to form in Shetland, so unless you've had your bin for more than a year, don't worry. Remember during the colder winter months decomposition in your bin will slow down and material may start to build up. Don't worry, this should start to go down as the weather warms up.
3. If you've had your bin for over a year, and there's no evidence of compost or decomposition you need to look at what you've been adding to your bin. The chances are you've got too much dry, woody, “brown” material and not enough wet, “green” material. Remember, it's important to get a good balance between your greens and your browns in the bin. Add some vegetable scraps from the kitchen, or some grass clippings, and that should kick-start the composting process.
4. Sit back, relax, and wait. Although you wont have any useable compost for a year at least, you should see evidence of decomposition within a month. Remember to keep a balance of wet material and dry.

If you have any questions about your compost please contact the Environmental Management team on **(01595) 744850**