

# Stationary bin: **Aerobin 400**

**Size:** 74 cm wide x 74 cm long x 120 cm high

**Maximum capacity:** 0.42 meters<sup>3</sup> (15 feet<sup>3</sup>)

**Price:** \$350—400

**Tester satisfaction:** high

**Features:** Green plastic double-insulated walls, large square lid, internal aeration tube, vermin-proof enclosed bottom, leachate reservoir with tap.

**What you can put in it:** Food waste (excluding meat, bones, dairy, and fats), leaves, grass clippings, other yard waste (excluding cat or dog waste).

**“Yuck” factor:** Moderate-to-low. Materials are neatly enclosed and break down with minimal interaction.

**Complexity to use:** Moderate-to-low. Some knowledge of balancing ingredients is helpful. Watering unnecessary.

**In winter:** Breakdown stops once the bin freezes, but you can keep adding materials as long as there is room.

**Mobility:** The bin is fairly heavy and cannot be lifted off the contents. It must be placed on a level surface.

**Available at:** Seasonally at Costco and online.



Tested by: **Kathryn**



Kathryn has been making compost for 20 years. She lives in a four-person household with a large yard, garden, and many trees. Although she grasscycles, she still has a large amount of leaves, garden waste, food waste, and other inputs to process. Before purchasing the Aerobin, she made compost

in a large heap. Once she acquired the bin, she started processing most of her compost in it, but still keeps a heap for excess leaves and other materials. Branches from her many trees go to Saskatoon's municipal compost depot.

Kathryn is a hands-on composter and enjoys doing something good for the environment while making a useful garden product at the same time.

## **Results:**

**Testing period:** May 2014—May 2015

### **Inputs:**

- 1513 litres of organic waste (36% greens, 39% browns, 24% dirt or finished compost, 2% other)
- Aerated 4 times for a total of 2 hours 45 minutes
- Did not water; contents remained damp

### **Outputs:**

- 250 litres of finished compost

## **Recommendations:**

The Aerobin 400 is an expensive but effective bin. Its large size, combined with its insulated and aerated design that keeps contents hot and active, means it is able to process a relatively large amount of yard waste.

The bin's internal aeration tube provides constant, passive aeration and makes stirring the compost much less necessary. Meanwhile, its enclosed design prevents excessive moisture loss and makes watering completely unneeded. However, this second feature works so well that the contents sometimes become too wet, and need to be mixed with more dry materials. Except in winter, the bin tends to keep an internal temperature between 40-65°C, which is ideal. Its enclosed bottom is also rodent-proof.

This bin does require a level base, and sometimes the lower door becomes difficult to open. But overall it is an excellent design which facilitates fast, hot composting—although the purchase price is fairly high.

