

# Stationary bin: **Earth Machine**

**Size:** 84 cm diameter x 84 cm height

**Maximum capacity:** 0.30 meters<sup>3</sup> (11 feet<sup>3</sup>)

**Price:** \$45—75

**Tester satisfaction:** high

**Features:** Interlocking black plastic top and bottom half with air vents, twist locking lid, large lower door for accessing the bottom half. Minimum 50% recycled plastic. Bottom open to the ground.

**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 and adding water is helpful.

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

**Mobility:** The bin is light and easy to move. You can easily lift it off the contents to harvest.

**Available at:** Through the company website: [earthmachine.com](http://earthmachine.com)



## **Results:**

**Testing period:** May 2014—May 2015

### **Inputs:**

- 1435 litres of organic waste (68% greens, 29% browns, 3% dirt or finished compost, 1% other)
- Added 100 litres of water
- Aerated 10 times for a total of 42 minutes

### **Outputs:**

- No finished compost was harvested during the test period

### **Recommendations:**

The Earth Machine is a good, basic bin that can be used on its own by a small household with mainly kitchen scraps, or as one of multiple bins in a household with large amounts of yard waste. It does not have the capacity to cope with large amounts of grass, leaves, or garden waste on its own.

Earth Machine bins were designed by the ORBIS Corporation to be used by municipalities for subsidized bin sales and backyard composting promotion. They are designed to be as cheap, functional, and easy to transport in a car. However this does mean they are harder to find if your local municipality is not currently selling them.

The bins come with a 10 year replacement warranty, and can be expected to last at least several years. As is common with black plastic bins, they become more brittle over time from sun exposure. Pam has had her bin for many years, and it is beginning to crack and become less functional. The bin's open-bottom design is not rodent proof, but Pam reported no trouble with mice or other pests.

Tested by: **Pam**



Pam lives in a household of four people. They have a large yard with a garden and plenty of trees. While they leave their grass clippings on the lawn, they have a large amount of kitchen scraps, garden waste and leaves to compost. In addition to the Earth Machine, they use two other wooden

compost bins to deal with their organic materials. Even with these additional bins, they take some of their leaves to the Saskatoon's municipal compost depot each year.

Pam is an experienced and enthusiastic hands-on composter who enjoys the chance to make a useful garden product and reduce waste at the same time.