

# Tumbling bin: **Vertical Tumbler**

**Size:** 74cm wide x 79 cm long x 80 cm high

**Maximum capacity:** 0.18 meters<sup>3</sup> (6.5 feet<sup>3</sup>)

**Price:** \$140—160

**Tester satisfaction:** moderate

**Features:** Brown plastic barrel set on a metal axle and plastic stand. Twist-lock plastic lid.

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

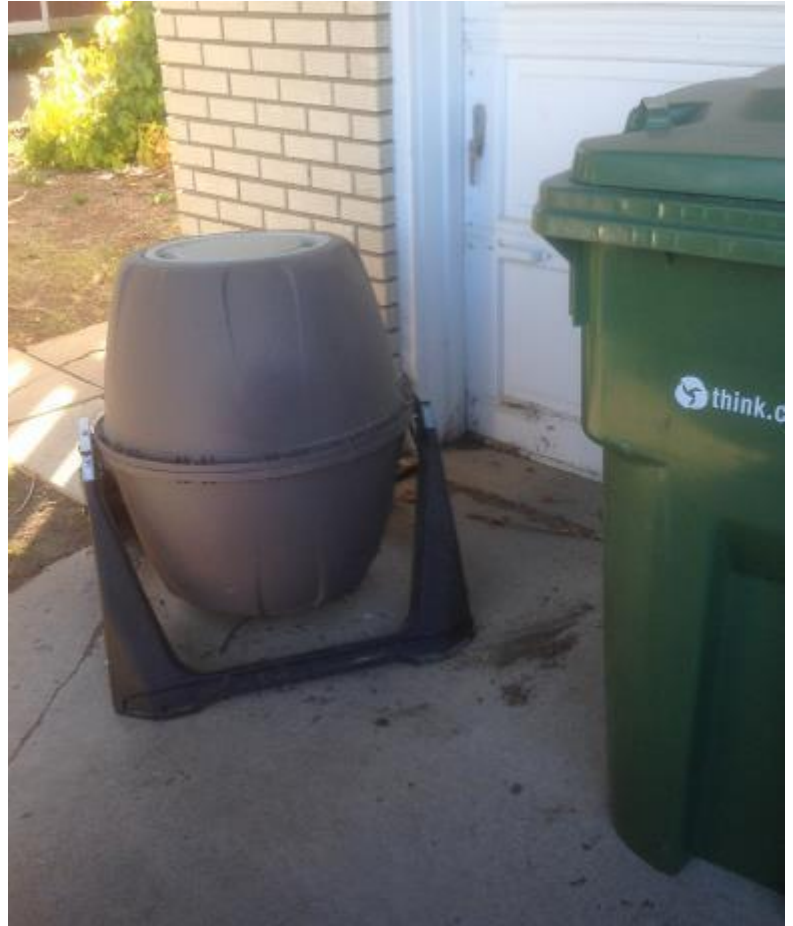
**“Yuck” factor:** Moderate-to-low. Materials are neatly enclosed and break down with minimal interaction.

**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. However the lid may freeze shut.

**Mobility:** The bin is very easy to move when empty and moderately difficult to move when full.

**Available at:** Seasonally at Home Hardware and online.



Tested by: **Martha**

Martha lives in a three-person household with a moderate amount of food scraps from their house and yard waste from their lawn and flowerbeds. She is interested in diverting her organic waste from the landfill, but doesn't want to have to give a lot of attention to a compost system or mess around with smelly materials. In the past, she has made several attempts to compost more regularly but always stops over the winter months.

While Martha is a reluctant, hands-off composter, she hopes to keep using the vertical tumbler in the future. Though it isn't a perfect design, she appreciates that it is neatly contained and can deal with being neglected for several weeks at a time.

## **Results:**

**Testing period:** May 2014—November 2014

### **Inputs:**

- 153 litres of organic waste (58% greens, 29% browns, 14% dirt or finished compost, 0% other)
- Added no water.
- Aerated 21 times for a total of 15 minutes

### **Outputs:**

- No finished compost was harvested during the test period

## **Recommendations:**

The vertical tumbler is a decent system for a small-to-medium household with mostly kitchen scraps or moderate amounts of yard waste. On its own, it is not sufficient to deal with large amounts of organic material. As with other tumbling bins, it works best combined with at least one other system, so that one can be used while the other is full and processing.

For a tumbling bin, the vertical tumbler is moderately priced. Because it is off the ground and enclosed, it is rodent proof.

The vertical tumbler arrives in pieces and needs to be put together. Assembly is a little tricky, as several internal components are a tight fit. While putting Martha's bin together, a small plastic piece actually snapped off—however this did not end up impeding the bin's function.

Unlike most tumbling bins, which turn on a horizontal axis, this bin flips end-over-end. Martha reported that when the bin was getting full, this meant it was actually quite difficult and heavy to turn over. This makes the bin unsuitable for people with limited upper body strength or injuries. However the design does make it easier to pour finished compost out than most horizontal bins.