

A directory of backyard composting bin producers

Some two dozen companies make a variety of cost-effective composting bins.

To attain substantial reduction in solid waste volumes, attention must focus on the recovery of household organics, such as food and yard wastes. Yet collecting this material door to door can be a sizable undertaking. A simple option is at hand: backyard composting. In communities across the continent, backyard composting is becoming the norm.

Considerable effort is being undertaken to expand the number of households composting on-site. For example, Orange County, New York is conducting a large-scale, one-year assessment of home composting systems and the effect of such efforts on waste disposal, energy consumption and cost. The project is being funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Several analysts feel backyard compost bin sales will rise sharply in the coming years as more communities begin to charge for waste collection on a volume or weight basis. For example, ECO, Corp. (Toronto, Ontario) is a publicly held company that produces a food waste composting unit. The firm actually experienced a decline in composter sales in 1992 of 30.3 percent to \$697,000 (\$CN) even after trying some 30 different retailing strategies, including being included in catalogs such as **Brookstone** and **Gardener's Supply**. The firm's marketers say that "beyond sales to the environmentally conscious consumer at \$79.95, there is no sec-

ond level of demand for prices [even] as low as \$19.95 until government legislation is introduced for garbage by the bag."

-To aid those planning a backyard composting system, we present a comprehensive directory of two dozen bin producers. The descriptions and listings in this directory were supplied to us by respondents to a survey.

Although **Resource Recycling** tried to ensure that all the information provided here is correct, we make no representation that this directory is absolutely accurate. Nothing in this directory should be relied upon in any specific instance where there is the possibility of loss or damage resulting from a publication



statement, error or omission. Feel free to write or call specific firms to receive additional information.

The directory is presented in two parts. We offer a list of producers, and then summarize the types of containers made by each.

Compost bin producers

A-1 Products Corporation

Angela Amendola
19,342 Bronte Street S.
Milton, ON L9T 5B7
Phone: (416) 875-2588
Fax: (416) 875-2583
A-1 Products manufactures the City Gardener, with a focus on dealing with grass clippings. Closed air composting process is ideally suited for cooler climates as well as animal and insect control. A-1 Products also produces the Garden Gourmet Composter.

Age-Old Organic, Inc.

Chris Munley
P.O. Box 1556
Boulder, CO 80306
Phone: (303) 499-0201
Fax: (303) 499-3231
Age-Old Organics manufactures a 55-gallon compost tumbler.

Bonar Plastics, Inc.

Brenda Kandall
1005 Atlantic Drive
West Chicago, IL 60185
Phone: (708) 293-0303
Fax: (708) 293-0930
Bonar Plastics, Inc. is a rotational molder of composters.



Bruce Mooney Associates, Inc.

Bruce Mooney
1849 Fairhill Road
Allison Park, PA 15101
Phone: (412) 367-2686
Fax: (412) 367-1015
Bruce Mooney Associates, Inc. is the exclusive nationwide distributor of receptacles for recyclables manufactured by A-Kobak Container Company. The containers include two compost bins. One is constructed of wax-coated corrugated made from

42 percent post-consumer fibers and one from waste wood.

C.E. Shepherd Co., Inc.

Cathy C. Nall
P.O. Box 9445
Houston, TX 77261-9445
Phone: (713) 928-3763
Fax: (713) 928-2324
C.E. Shepherd has been manufacturing PVC coated wire mesh for over 25 years. Our complete

composter is very economical and is available for communities residential composting programs.

Cedar Creek Enterprises

Rand French

2689 Walpole Crescent
North Vancouver, BC V7H 1K7

Phone: (604) 929-7760

Western red cedar bins offer a great natural look to gardens and are lined with 1/2" wire mesh for rodent resistance. Single bins (2 1/2' wide x 3' long x 2 1/2' high) hold approximately 19 cubic feet. Custom-built double- and triple-bin systems are available on request.

Chem-Tainer

P. C. Burns
361 Neptune Avenue
North Babylon, NY 11704
Phone: (516) 661-8300
Fax: (516) 661-8209

Chem-Tainer offers a 60-gallon heavy-duty compost bin. The rugged, lightweight and versatile composter doubles as a collection barrel when not actively composting.

Eco-Balance Corporation

Linda Penny
84 Woodborough Road
Guelph, ON N1G 3K5
Phone: (519) 767-2644
Fax: (519) 822-4571

Eco Balance Corporation manufactures and mar-

kets the Eco Balance composter in two models: 20 cubic feet and 9.4 cubic feet.

Earthworm Environmental

Dave Bishop

R R #1

Haley Station, ON K0J 1Y0

Phone: (613) 432-9699

Fax: (613) 646-2932

Earthworm Environmental markets and assembles vermicomposters and supplies worms and bedding material.

Environmental Applied Products

Henry P. Artis

2029 N. 23rd St.

Boise, ID 83702

Phone: (208) 368-7900

Fax: (208) 368-7900

The Tumblebug Yard Composter is a patented polyhedral design that allows ease of turning the compost pile by tipping or rolling the bin. A large 20-cubic-foot capacity provides for higher, more even thermomass temperatures and allows for rapid decomposition of common household organic materials with the least amount of effort.

Green Mountain Technologies

Michael Bryan-Brown

P.O. Box 17

Whitingham, VT 05361

Phone: (802) 368-7291

Fax: (802) 368-7313

Green Mountain Technologies specializes in the design and manufacture of composting equipment. Products include the Easy Rotter, a kit for the conversion of scrap tires into compost bins; the Comptainer, an in-vessel composting system using sealed roll-off containers; and computer systems using temperature feedback for aeration control.

Harmonious Technologies

John Roulac

P.O. Box 1865

Ojai, CA 93024

Phone: (805) 646-8030

Fax: (805) 646-7404

Harmonious Technologies provides home composting program services to municipalities. It is the U.S. representative for the Earth Machine composter and the Presto bin. Harmonious Technologies staff teach workshops and publish educational materials, including two books: *Backyard Composting*, a complete guide to recycling yard clippings; and *Keep It Off the Curb*, successful home and on-site compost program management.

Kemp Company

Todd Sweet

160 Koser Road

Lititz, PA 17543

Phone: (717) 627-7979

Fax: (717) 627-4566

Kemp Company manufactures the compact Compostumbler and the original Compostumbler.

Company	Materials				Percent
	Plastics	Wood	Wire Mesh	Other	
A-1 Products Corporation	x				100
Age-Old Organics, Inc.	x				0
Bonar Plastics, Inc.	x				100
Bruce Mooney Associates	x			Paper	100 (waste wood; 42 (paper)
C.E. Shepherd Co., Inc.		X			85
Cedar Creek Enterprises		x	x		0
C h e m - T a i n e r	x				N.S.
Lx-Balance Corporation	x				100
Earthworm Environmental	x				100
Environmental Applied Products	x				100
Green Mountain Technologies	x			Tires	95 (tires)
Harmonious Technologies	x				40-50
Kemp Company	x			Steel	0
Norseman Plastics	x				90
Original Vermicomposter	x	x	x	Metal	25-100
RPB Mfg.	x				95
Recycled Plastics Marketing	x				100
RecycleIt Corporation	x				35-100
Shape Plastics Corporation	x				100
Smith & Hawken	x				100
Techstar Plastics	x				60
Tenax Corporation	x				100
Wihnar, Inc.	x				100
The Worm Factory	x				50

N.S. = Not specified.
Source: Resource Recycling, 1993.

Norseman Plastics

Herb Noseworthy
 2296 Kenmore Avenue
 Buffalo, NY 14207
 Phone: (800) 267-4391
 Fax: (416) 745-1874

Norseman Plastics manufactures the Earth Machine Composter. Over 200,000 have been sold since 1992.

Original Vermicomposter

Albert Eggen
 507 King Street East, #18
 Toronto, ON M5A 1M3
 Phone: (416) 366-8674
 Fax: (416) 367-3885

Original Vermicomposter manufactures and distributes a product line that includes indoor household vermicomposters and vermicomposters for food waste in restaurants, hospitals, etc.

RPB Mfg.

Robert P. Benestelli
 727 Thompson Avenue
 McKees Rocks, PA 15135
 Phone: (412) 331-4640
 Fax: (412) 331-4641

RPB Mfg. makes composters from old plastic pepper barrels. The end-over-end tumbling composters are sold throughout the U.S. by mail order.

Recycled Plastics Marketing, Inc.

Ben Packard
 2829 152nd Avenue, N.E.
 Redmond, WA 98052
 Phone: (206) 867-3200
 Fax: (206) 867-3282

The Seattle Composter has been an effective component of more than 50 municipal programs across the country. The Seattle Composter is rodent-resistant and made with the highest percentages of post-consumer plastics. RPM offers a variety of sizes and styles, including The Compost Cage.

RecycleIt Corporation

Chris Hunt
25 N.W. Gordon Road
Bend, OR 97701-1836
Phone: (800) 769-1044
Fax: (503) 382-0712

RecycleIt manufactures and distributes the Worm Farm home vermicomposting kit. Classroom curricula (K-12) and in-service "wormshops" are available for teachers.

Shape Plastics Corporation

Bryan Muche
P.O. Box 538
Sharon, WI 53585
Phone: (414) 736-8888
Fax: (815) 737-4273

Shape Plastics manufactures a sphere-shaped composter that is superior to conventional boxes and bins. The Bio Orb is a no-work composter that has finally made the composting task clean and easy.

Smith & Hawken

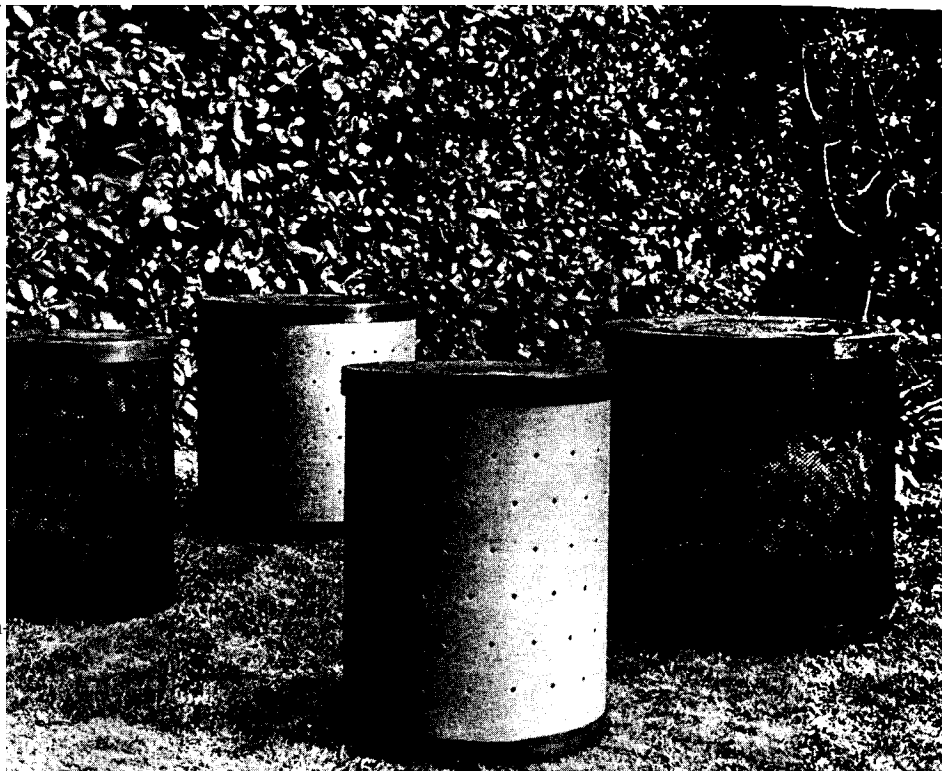
Jim Downing
117 East Strawberry Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941
Phone: (415) 383-4415
Fax: (415) 383-3827

Smith & Hawken is a retail and mail order business that offers gardening supplies including the Biostack Composter with its unique three-tiered design.

Techstar Plastics Inc.

Cathy Arkles
15400 Old Simcoe Road
Port Perry, ON L9L 1L8
Phone: (416) 985-8479/ (800) 263-7943
Fax: (416) 985-0265

Techstar Plastics manufactures the Bardmatic home



composter (digester). The Bardmatic is rotationally molded from 100 percent recycled polyethylene with a U.V. stabilizer.

Tenax Corporation

Alexandra Pilkerton
4800 East Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21205
Phone: (800) 356-8495
Fax: (410) 522-7015

Tenax manufactures plastic fencing and nets for use as compost bins. Most are made with recycled plastics, and all are recyclable.

Wilmarc, Inc.

Mark Sawyer
5266 East 65th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46220
Phone: (317) 849-9596
Fax: (317) 849-7868

Wilmarc, Inc. manufactures two composter models: the Easy Composter and the Handy Composter. The Handy Composter is made from recycled plastic.

The Worm Factory

Janet Livingstone
129 Sherbrooke Street E.
Perth, ON K7H 1B1
Phone: (613) 267-5540

The Worm Factory has been in business for three years, selling redworms for composting and other related vermicomposting products, including a worm bin. The Worm Factory ships anywhere.