



Town of  
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PENINSULA**

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# GREEN CONE

The simple, natural way to deal with all of your food waste



# Assembly and Operation of Your Green Cone®

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## How the Green Cone works

A completely natural system that reduces your waste to its natural components of water and CO<sub>2</sub>

### Sunlight

Provides energy source for cone

### Accelerator Powder

Additional natural bacteria

### Water

Evaporates from food waste for aerobic composting

### Soil

Filters out odor and prevents access by flies

### Rich Soil Conditioner

Seeps into surrounding ground

### Natural Micro-Organisms and Worms

Migrate freely in and out of basket and break down the waste



### Double Walled Solar Cone

Creates a heat trap of circulating air to encourage bacteria growth and also insulates waste in winter

### Digestion Chamber

Enables aerobic condition to be created and also reduces methane production

60 cm

Over 90% of the waste in your Green Cone will be absorbed as water by the soil

# Assembly

## YOU MUST ASSEMBLE YOUR GREEN CONE BEFORE INSTALLATION

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Studs	Hinge	Screw	Backplate	Screw	Lid Lock
<b>Hardware</b>						
	x 2	x 1	x 9 10x5/8	x 1	x 2 8x5/8	x 1

**Note: Some of the plastic edges may be sharp. Gloves are suggested during assembly and installation.**

### Cone parts



Basket    Black cone    Green cone

### Tools required

Flathead Screwdriver 

Phillips Screwdriver 

### Step 1

Place the ribbed side of the hinge on the inside of the lid. Screw the hinge (B) on to the lid through the pre-drilled holes using the two studs (A). Do not over tighten the studs, as you could crack the lid.



### Step 2

Attach the lid lock to the outer green cone through the marked holes using the 8x5/8 screws (E).



### Step 3

The bar across the opening of the green cone should be cut out to allow large scraps to be emptied in to the cone. Cut the bar out with a hacksaw, blade or cutters.



## Step 4

- Place the lid on top of the cone and half turn the lock
- **Partly screw** (about 1/8" ) the hinge to the outer cone using three 10x5/8 self tapping screws (C) then place and hold the black backplate (D) on to the screws inside the cone, then tighten the three screws.



## Step 5

- Place the black cone on top of the basket
- Then place the green cone over the black cone and line up the holes on the green cone with the U slots on the black cone.
- Use the 6 10x5/8 self tapping screws (C) to secure the two upper cones to the basket.



Your cone is now  
assembled and ready for  
installation!



# Installing Your Green Cone®

## IMPORTANT:

The more care you take installing your Green Cone, the greater its efficiency.

### Step 1

Choose a **sunny** spot in your garden

**The sunnier,  
the better!**



### Step 2

Dig a hole 80 cm (32") wide and 60 cm (24") deep in **well draining soil**.

If you have heavy clay or chalk, dig the hole 90 cm (36") wide and 70 cm (32") deep, or check out Step 5 for more ideas.



**WARNING:** Please make sure there are no underground pipes, cables or tree roots where you dig.

#### TIP 1

After you have dug the hole, pour a bucket of water in to it. If the water has disappeared within 10-15 minutes, your drainage is okay. If not, dig the hole deeper and add some stones (See Step 2).

#### TIP 2

If you hit solid clay when digging the hole, see "Where drainage is an issue" (next page).

### Step 3

Mix some of the soil from the hole (do not use clay or chalk) with some stones or gravel and/or compost and use at the bottom of the hole and as backfill once your cone is in place.



### Step 4

Ensure the top of the basket and bottom lip of the green cone are below ground level.

#### TIP 3

The soil level will drop after installation and heavy rain. Check periodically that the bottom lip of the green cone is covered.



## Where drainage is an issue

If you live in an area of **heavy clay** or **chalk**, you may have drainage issues. One solution is to create a raised bed, like in these two installations.



Clay and chalk can cause problems with drainage. If the water produced by the cone cannot drain away into the surrounding soil, the basket may end up standing in water. This will stop the cone working and may produce smells.

You can (as described in step 2) dig the hole deeper and wider, but with persistent rain, the bottom of the hole could still fill with water.

If you would like to make a feature of your cone and ensure it works correctly, you could design a raised bed.

### Creating a Raised Bed:

- Dig a hole around 30 cm deep and completely fill with small stones.
- Stand the cone on top of the stone at ground level.
- Build a rockery around the basket leaving about 15 cm gap around the cone to backfill with soil, or use wooden slats as in the pictures above.

# Using Your Green Cone®

## **Accelerator powder**

You must sprinkle accelerator powder on to the food waste in your kitchen caddy for the first 5-6 times you empty the caddy in to the cone, this will help build up a healthy amount of bacteria to start your cone working.

In a healthy working Cone the food waste will be covered in a blue/gray fur, this is the bacteria doing it's work. You should see this blue/grey fur start to build up over the first 10-14 days. While you can see the bacteria you do not need to add accelerator powder. When the level of bacteria starts to Disappear add some accelerator powder.

Remember to add accelerator powder **every time you empty the caddy during the winter months** and as required during summer.

Where the Green Cone is situated in a position that does not enjoy a full day of sun, or when there are long periods of cold weather, the digestion process will benefit from occasional application of accelerator powder.

## **Use a kitchen caddy**

A kitchen caddy can be purchased from most hardware or home supply stores. This can be kept in your kitchen to reduce the number of trips you make to your Green Cone. Throughout the day, food waste can be put into the caddy before it is taken to your Green Cone.

**The Green Cone is designed to handle the following amount of waste:**

- **1 full 4.5-litre caddy every 1-2 days during the summer months**
- **1 full 4.5-litre caddy every 2-3 days during the winter months**

**DO NOT USE ANY CHEMICAL  
ACTIVATER IN THE GREEN CONE,  
AS IT COULD KILL THE BACTERIA**

## **What can I empty into the Green Cone?**

Fish, Meat, Poultry, Bones, Bread, Pasta, Soup, Curry, Fruit including peelings, Vegetables including peelings, Dairy produce, Cooked food scraps, Crushed egg shells, Tea bags and coffee grinds.

See the back cover of this booklet for a handy list.

# Maintenance

Your Green Cone needs very little maintenance. As noted in the section on installation, it is important to ensure that the top of the basket and the bottom lip of the outer green cone are below ground level and always fully covered with soil.

In a well operating Green Cone, very little waste residue will be produced. Should the residue build up to ground level and not decrease, the upper cones can be removed to access the basket.

For a average family of four, the basket should only need emptying every 2-3 years. The residue (soil conditioner) can be dug into any suitable area of ground or added to a composter.

Make sure the lid and the green outer cone are kept clean and free from any food waste. Do not spill food waste on the ground around the cone as this could attract vermin.

Remember the Green Cone is **NOT** a composter and will **NOT** deal with garden waste.

# Health and Safety

## Accelerator Powder

### **Hazards Identification:**

Eye Contact - May cause irritation.

Skin Contact - Exposure can irritate sensitive skins.

Ingestion - Can lead to nausea or diarrhea.

Inhalation - Asthmatic-type response with sensitive individuals.

### **First Aid Measures:**

Eye Contact - Flush with water for at least 15 minutes.

Skin Contact - Wash thoroughly with soap and water.

Ingestion - Give two glasses of water to dilute product. **Do not induce vomiting.**

Inhalation - Calm the individual, allow plenty of fresh air, loosen clothing around neck.

## Kitchen Caddy

Do not leave the caddy containing any food waste in a place where children and/or animals could get to the food waste inside it.

## Mould Spores

Healthy people with a strong immune system are less at risk when breathing in fungi and bacteria from decaying matter when stirring compost. As you do not have to stir the waste in a Green Cone, this should not be a problem.

However, transplant patients, people undergoing chemotherapy and those prone to bronchial infections should avoid proximity to rubbish bins altogether. People with weakened immune systems should avoid contact with mouldy rubbish.

# Troubleshooting

## **How can I tell if my cone is working?**

Look inside your cone and if you can see blue/grey fur (mould) growing on the food waste and your cone does not smell, your cone is working as it should do. If you cannot see any fur (mould), add accelerator powder for a few days until you can see the mold growing.

## **Small flies come out of the cone when I open the lid.**

The Green Cone is a sealed unit and when properly installed, emits no smells. It does not therefore attract flies. However, the eggs of fruit flies are already in the skins of many fruits especially (orange and banana skins) and can hatch out in the Green Cone.

Similarly, if food or food waste is not kept covered prior to going into the Green Cone, eggs may be laid by a housefly/blue bottle. These would also produce maggots and flies in the Green Cone. Good housekeeping is therefore important.

Should flies become a nuisance, they can be eradicated by using an airborne fly killer (given the enclosed space inside the Cone, a little squirt kills the flies very quickly), which will not kill the bacteria. An organic product is recommended. Under no circumstances use chemical fly killer inside the cone.

## **The food waste in the Cone looks wet and slimy.**

This is normally due to poor drainage, as the food waste that has broken down to water cannot seep in to the surrounding soil or from heavy rainfall. Check your Cone's drainage.

## **The basket is full of food waste in a short time.**

This is normally due to “over loading” i.e., too much food waste is being put into the Cone. If you put more than the recommended amount of food waste in the Cone, it will not have sufficient time to break down. See the page 8 “Using your Cone.”

## **Will the Green Cone attract vermin?**

If correctly installed, your Green Cone will not attract vermin. By ensuring that the top of the basket and the bottom lip of the green outer cone are below ground level, any smells will be filtered out by the surrounding soil. It is also important not to spill food near or down the Green Cone, and make sure the lid and top of the Cone are clean at all times.

If you live an area with rat infestation, we would suggest you obtain a special wire ‘rat basket’ before you install your Cone.

# What can I put in my Green Cone? (and what to keep out!)

## YES!

Fish ~ Meat ~ Poultry

All bones

Bread

Fruit (including peelings)

Vegetables (including peelings)

Dairy products

Raw and cooked food scraps

Crushed egg shells

Tea bags

Coffee grounds (but not filters)

Small amounts of animal excrement

## NO!

Metal ~ Wood

Plastic ~ Glass

Paper ~ Straw

Bulk oil

Disinfectant ~ Bleaches

Grass cuttings ~ Hedge clippings

Large amounts of coarse vegetable matter (corn husks, pea shells, etc.)

