



Recycling and
Environmental
Action
Planning
Society

What to do with doggie dodo?



What about the cat poop too?

If you use clay based cat litter it will not break down. It is best not to add this kind of litter to the Pet Waste Digester. It is okay to add the cat faeces only.

Cat litters made from biodegradable materials such as straw, newspaper or wood shavings will break down and can be added to the digester.

Pet Waste - The Concern

The average dog produces about a third of a pound (0.15 kg) of waste per day, nearly 16,485 kg of doggie dodo every week! Most dog owners are responsible scoopers, a great many leave that waste on lawns and in parks. Disease causing organisms from pet waste run off into the storm water and sewer systems. Dog waste is loaded with nitrogen and bacteria that may *poo-lute* our rivers and streams.

Pet Waste Digester - The Answer

Bury or compost pet waste beneath the ground level to completely break down the waste and protect our streams and rivers.



How to Make a Doggie Dodo Digester

Materials Needed:

- plastic garbage can with lid or a large bucket with a lid
- Drill with 1/4" drill bit
- Jig saw
- Shovel
- Septic bacteria treatment

Step 2 - Prepare the hole

- Pick a spot away from the vegetable gardens and not in direct sunlight
- If you are not sure that your spot is safe - **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!**
- Dig your hole slightly wider than your container, and 6 inches (15 cm) shorter, so that it is raised above the ground.
- Add rocks or gravel to the bottom of the hole to 2 - 4 inches (5 - 10 cm) in depth. This will assist with drainage.



Step 3 - Start Using Your Dodo Digester

- Add your pet waste every day from your yard and from your walks. Covering with the lid.
- Add water and the septic bacteria treatment at the beginning and then weekly or as needed to assist the composting process and to breakdown the pathogens. Decomposition will be slower in the winter time and the pile will reduce when the warmer temperatures return.
- Adding straw, dried grass clippings or leaves occasionally will assist in keeping the odours under control.

STEP 1 - The Container

Drill holes starting 6 inches (15 cm) from the top of the can or bucket.



The holes should be placed about every 3-6 inches (10-15 cm). The holes provide an exchange of micro-organisms between the soil and the container.

Cut out the bottom of the container using a jig saw leaving a 1-2 inches (5-10 cm) lip to provide strength to the container.



Troubleshooting

- As the waste breaks down it will blend into the surrounding soil where the organisms continue to process the waste. If the decomposition is slow more septic treatment can be added.
- If you have more than one dog, consider installing a second digester to handle the extra volume.
- **DO NOT USE** compostable pet waste as a fertilizer!