

Filling your Bioreactor

What you will need

- ◆ Bioreactor
- ◆ Inoculant
- ◆ 10-15 bags of leaves for each residential bioreactor, and 50+ bags for each estate bioreactor (depending on how full the bags are)
- ◆ A tub/container or wheel barrow to soak the leaves
- ◆ Garden or pitch fork
- ◆ Drain tray (optional)
- ◆ Water supply

Preparing the leaves and filling the Bioreactor

1. Place your bioreactor in its resting location flat on the ground. The residential size reactor will be extremely heavy to move when full and the estate size reactor cannot be moved once filled.
2. Spread out bags of leaves on lawn
3. Run over the leaves with your lawn mower to break up the leaves into smaller pieces
4. Fill your soaking container about half full with water
5. Add inoculant and broken up leaves to the soaking container, totally immersing the leaves in the solution
6. Let soak for a few minutes
7. Fork the leaves out of the soaking container allowing them to drain briefly then dump them in the bioreactor, repeat this process until the bioreactor is completely full. (see note)
8. If you are using the residential size bioreactor you can place the lid on top of the container after biomass has settled.
9. You have now completed the filling process. There is no need to turn/stir up the leaves in the bioreactor. Your bioreactor will digest leaves over the next 1 1/2 – 2 years and provide you with high quality fungal dominant compost when done.
10. Monitor the biomass and keep it damp, you can add some worms to assist in the process if you choose.

Note: We recommend that you complete the filling of the bioreactor in one session and that you initially overfill the reactor as the biomass will settle substantially at the start. The air chimneys are designed with a cover to keep leaves from blocking the chimney.