

**APPENDIX A.1  
COMPOST BIN PROMOTIONAL LEAFLET AND QUESTIONNAIRE  
DISTRIBUTED IN THE RBC STUDY AREA**

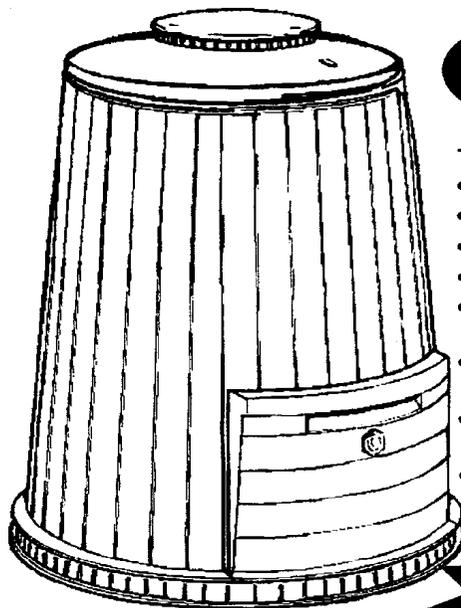
# RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL



working with

Imperial College, London & The Norlands Foundation

## COMPOSTER OFFER



Diameter 800mm Height 963mm

### MILKO PREMIUM

#### TOP QUALITY COMPOSTER

- Composts kitchen & garden waste
- Minimal effort required
- Odour free operation
- Large 290 litre capacity
- High temperatures generated destroy weed seeds
- Easy compost removal via sliding side hatch
- Includes base with air injector, and hinged lid with adjustable vents
- Perfect for everyone, from beginners to professional gardeners

SUBSIDISED PRICE

# £5.00

Including delivery



Imperial College

**STRAIGHT**  
STRAIGHT RECYCLING SYSTEMS LTD.  
74 KIRKGATE LEEDS LS2 7DJ

**0845 307 4418**

## WHY COMPOST?

### Why compost?

Many of us simply throw our household waste away without a thought to where it goes or what happens to it. In fact, the bulk of what we discard from our homes ends up in landfill sites - large holes in the ground that are ultimately filled up with rubbish.

New environmental legislation and a chronic shortage of landfill space means that new methods of dealing with waste must be found. We will all need to try and recycle more, taking responsibility for some of our domestic waste.

Composting our kitchen and garden waste is one way in which we can all help - using this material as an alternative to peat-based soil conditioners. This cuts down on waste and keeps the garden blooming.

### The special offer

Runnymede Borough Council in conjunction with researchers at Imperial College, London, and The Norlands Foundation, is working on a project to see exactly what impact home composting will have. We are keen to hear more about you, and so in return for filling out a short questionnaire, you can purchase a £50 Milko Premium Home Composter for just £5 - a saving of 90% on the usual retail price.

### Help us even more

If you are interested in participating in this research, you can tick the box on the questionnaire to offer your help. We need a group of householders to try out different ideas and take measurements using simple equipment. We will then be able to see which method works best.

### What to do next

Remember, you don't have to be involved in the research to take advantage of this offer - you just need to fill in the questionnaire and order form and send it freepost back to us.

If you would like any further information about home composting or about this offer, please call our local rate helpline **0845 307 4418**.

# QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Which type of property do you live in?

2. How many people live in your property? .....

3. Do you have access to any of the following? (please tick)

- Garden                       Allotment                       None of these  
 Shared garden               Patio/yard/balcony

4. What are the approximate dimensions of your lawn?

Measurements in yards  or in metres

5. How do you get rid of kitchen and/or garden waste? (please tick)

- Compost                       Dump/tip (civic amenity site)  
 Wheeled bin                 Burn it (bonfire, solid fuel burner)

Other (please specify) .....

6. If you are interested in participating in the research project on home composting, please tick the box below and give us your telephone number. We will arrange to meet you to explain what is involved.

Yes, I want to help further

Contact telephone number .....

7. If you are not interested in home composting, can you tell us the reasons why? (please tick the relevant boxes)

- Don't know how to make compost     Don't have the time  
 Don't have a big enough garden     Don't generate enough material  
 Prefer to buy compost                 It is messy/smelly  
 It might attract vermin                Prefer to have a bonfire  
 Dispose of rubbish at a tip/dump     Poor or ill health

Other (please specify) .....

**PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE & COMPOST BIN APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO THE FREEPOST ADDRESS**

# ORDER FORM

To place an order, simply complete the section below, and return to STRAIGHT RECYCLING SYSTEMS LTD. (address below)

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 4 WEEKS**

PLEASE NOTE - to qualify for this offer you must complete the questionnaire overleaf

NAME

ADDRESS


POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

Please send me:

**1st Bin rate** (Maximum order of one bin at this rate)

x **Milko Premium** 290 litre Home Composter@£5

**Additional bin rate** (no limit for number of bins at this rate)

x **Milko Premium** 290 litre Home Composter@£30

**Bonus offers**

x **Kitchen Bucket\*** 10 litre capacity @£2.99 per unit

x **Biotol Accelerator\*** 500ml bottle @£4.99 per unit

x **Backyard Composting book\*** @£3.00 per unit

\*only available with a composter

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to STRAIGHT RECYCLING SYSTEMS LTD. for

or, Please debit my

Access / VISA / Delta / Switch\*\* account by

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE

\*\*Issue Number (SWITCH only)

SIGNATURE

**OFFER ONLY OPEN TO RESIDENTS IN THE RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMPOSTING TRIAL AREA**

**Post to: STRAIGHT RECYCLING SYSTEMS LTD. (RMBC) FREEPOST NEA2439, LEEDS LS2 3YY**

**BONUS OFFERS**

**KITCHEN BUCKET**



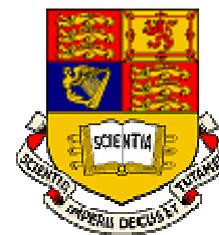
**BIOTOL ACCELERATOR**



**BOOK**



**APPENDIX A.2**  
**HOME COMPOSTING INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED TO**  
**HOMEOWNERS: AN EXAMPLE OF A DATA RECORD SHEET**



## **POSITIONING THE COMPOST BIN**

Place the compost bin in a convenient place in the garden, but make sure the base is in direct contact with bare soil or grass.

## **ADD THE FOLLOWING**

**Kitchen waste** (Cut into small pieces and collect in the bucket provided):

<b>Put in</b>	<b>Do not put in</b>
✓ Uncooked vegetable and fruit peelings	✗ Cooked food
✓ Tea bags	✗ Dairy or meat products
✓ Egg shells	✗ Pet waste

**Non-recyclable paper and cardboard** (Collect in a plastic bag; tear and crumple before placing in compost bin)

<b>Put in</b>	<b>Do not put in</b>
✓ Cardboard packaging	✗ Newspapers, magazines & catalogues
✓ Cartons	✗ Telephone directories
✓ Toilet roll centres	✗ Packaging with plastic film
✓ Crumpled paper and envelopes	✗ Plastic drink and milk cartons
✓ Soiled tissues and kitchen towels	✗ Plastics, metals, glass or wood

**Garden waste** (Collect all in a black bin-liner)

<b>Put in</b>	<b>Do not put in</b>
✓ Grass clippings	✗ Weeds
✓ Green leaves	✗ Hedge prunings
✓ Green plant clippings	✗ Woody materials

**PROCEDURE**

Every time you add kitchen and paper waste to the compost bin, weigh them in their containers separately using the hanging balance provided and record the weights and date on the log-sheet provided. Collect kitchen waste in the bucket provided until it is at least ½ full and collect paper in a plastic carrier bag until it is full before weighing. Ideally you should add twice as much kitchen and garden waste than paper or card over a period of time.

Before adding garden waste to the bin, use a tap measure (cm) to measure the depth in the bin beginning from the top of the bin to the top of the compost surface. Repeat the same measurement after adding garden wastes. Record both depths and date of measurements on the log-sheet provided.

**TEMPERATURE**

Insert the temperature probe into the compost. Using the thermometer provided, record the temperature of the compost and date on the log-sheet whenever you add waste to the bin (at least twice a week).

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE**

A researcher will visit you regularly and will monitor progress and answer queries. We intend to provide a progress report on the research to all householders participating in the composting trial on a regular basis.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE**



**APPENDIX A.3**  
**Feedback questionnaire distributed to Study Trial participants in**  
**May 2001 and March 2002**

## HOME COMPOSTING SURVEY

Please try to answer all the questions below in order for us to assess the relative success of the Home Composting Study Trial. Tick the boxes to answer positively.

How long have you been making compost at home?

- 1yr (RBC Campaign with Imperial College (London))
- Other (please specify)

What persuaded you to start making compost at home?

- Saw council promotional campaign with Imperial College (London)
- Received discounted compost bin from the council
- Encouraged by friends or family
- Wanted to do something for the environment/save peat
- Moved to a property with a bigger garden
- Got an allotment
- Became more interested in gardening
- Other (please specify)

Apart from using kitchen and/or garden waste to make compost, does your household use any other methods to dispose of kitchen/garden waste?

- Take it to the dump/tip (CA site) and put it in a skip especially for green/garden waste
- Take it to the dump/tip (CA site) and put it in with the general rubbish
- Put it in the wheeled bin, dustbin
- Burn it (e.g. bonfire, solid fuel burner)
- The Gardener takes the waste away
- Sink disposal unit
- Give to the neighbours to make compost
- I use most of the waste from the garden and/or kitchen to make compost
- Other (please specify)

How often, if at all, do you take garden waste to the local dump/tip?

- Once a week
- Once a month
- Once every other month
- Other (please specify)
- Once every six months
- Once a year
- Never

If you do take garden waste to the dump/tip, please specify which materials you take?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dead plant materials/dead flowers  | <input type="checkbox"/> Prunings                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diseased garden materials<br>waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Large pieces of woody garden waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn mowings                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves                             |

Approximately how many black sacs full of garden waste do you take to the local dump/tip each time you go?

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 sac    | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-9 sacs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 sacs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Do you add kitchen and/or garden waste to your compost bin all year round or does it tend to be mainly at certain times of the year?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All year round                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Just the leaves in Autumn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Only during the gardening season | <input type="checkbox"/> Only grass cuttings       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Winter/bad weather        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)    |

What kitchen waste do you compost?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit cores/peelings   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable peelings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teabags                | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee grounds     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salad trimmings        | <input type="checkbox"/> Egg shells         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |   |

What garden materials do you compost?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dead plant materials/dead flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn mowings                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prunings                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Shredded woody waste   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet cage cleanings                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Do you have any serious problems with your composter ?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Composter size OK    | <input type="checkbox"/> Composter too small    | <input type="checkbox"/> Composter too large     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No problems with use | <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to use            | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to use        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enough of material   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortage of material   | <input type="checkbox"/> Excess material         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No vermin attraction | <input type="checkbox"/> Some vermin attraction | <input type="checkbox"/> Large vermin attraction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No flies             | <input type="checkbox"/> Few flies              | <input type="checkbox"/> Many flies              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No odour             | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpleasant odour       | <input type="checkbox"/> Very unpleasant odour   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry/friable compost  | <input type="checkbox"/> Compost wet and soggy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Compost extremely soggy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Too slow               | <input type="checkbox"/> Very slow               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |  |

Were you satisfied with the quality of your compost product?

- Yes
- No (please state why)

What do you use your compost for?

- Digging into the soil
- Planting seeds
- Other (please specify)

Do you still wish to continue in the council Home Composting Scheme?

- Yes
- No (please state your reasons).

Would the following encourage you to home compost?

- Advice/helpline on how to make compost at home using compost bins/wormeries
- General publicity on the environmental benefits of making compost at home
- Educational talks to groups/promotional visits/displays at shows/fairs
- None of these
- Other (please specify)

**THANK YOU**