

The Compostability of Waxed Corrugated Cardboard

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Waxed Corrugated Cardboard

Because of its waxed surface, waxed corrugated cardboard is not readily accepted at most compost facilities and is landfilled instead.



Objective

To compost various nitrogen-based source-separated organics with various amounts of waxed corrugated cardboard in six continuously aerated, intermittently agitated composting reactors to quantify the impact on the compost process and on the compost quality.



Reactors

These insulated barrels are supplied with compressed air and mixed regularly. The temperature is recorded hourly using data loggers, the oxygen content is measured three times per week, and moisture content, conductivity and pH are measured weekly. Samples are also periodically taken to test for maturity.

Maturity Testing

Bi-weekly for the first six weeks, then monthly thereafter, a sample from the reactor will be taken and tested. In an original procedure, samples are diluted in large bottles of water with a periodic aeration system. A dissolved oxygen meter automatically records the data, and the rate-of-change of the dissolved oxygen indicates the consumption rate (maturity) of the compost sample.

