

# DEVON'S Community RECYCLING

## Rats and home composting— solution—buy a Jora 270 Home Composter Rat problem conquered!

The composter has ensured there is no trace  
of food at all in the residual rubbish



At last a home composter that really works wonders. Great compost, no more smelly dustbins, no more rats, no 'soggy' stuff. And no more biodegradable food waste to landfill.

I purchased a Jora 270 Swedish designed insulated compost tumbler a few months ago, and thorough trials have shown it to perform brilliantly for all types of kitchen food waste, cooked and uncooked, meat, fish and children's plate scrapings.

Previously, rats have been a persistent problem - I live in a rural hamlet - even when limiting food composting to fruit and raw vegetable scraps. Not only would rats burrow into the compost bin to pick through the contents, but any chance and they would be in the residual rubbish looking for cooked food waste, gnawing holes through plastic dustbins. They would vandalise all sorts of random items by chewing them, and even burrowed into my house through the old granite and lime mortar walls. Once inside under the floors they

chewed electrical wiring and sounded like beavers when they gnawed wood in the ceiling.

Neighbours suffered from similar occurrences. Periodically I had to call out the Council ratman to lay some poison down to control their population. On one occasion I had to take up floorboards to find a dead rat that was smelling badly (died of natural causes), and excavate outside the house under ground to stop up an access hole rats had established in the walls.

But the rat problems have now gone. There have been two parts to the solution. Firstly, the composter has ensured there is no trace of food at all in the residual rubbish other than packaging, and they can no longer snack on the food put into a home composter. Pests cannot gain access as the Jora composter stands above ground level on a tripod frame. Contents compost so rapidly that within a few days it is quickly unappealing to rats. Sawdust is added as a 'carbon' additive and soak when tipping the kitchen bucket, and the tripod frame allows the tumbler to be easily turned by handles with minimal effort which provides aeration through vents. There are twin chambers enabling continuous composting. Emptying is as easy as turning to empty one or both chambers through the access hatch. Though pricey at £340 for the large 270 litre size and £229 including delivery for a 125 litre version, I think a Jora is good value. It will process all that food waste previously consigned to the dustbin and transform it into good quality organic compost to grow mouth watering crops of tomatoes and salads, I now get pleasure every time I empty the kitchen caddy, my kids think it is fun, and there are no more smelly dustbins. I would now be happy to receive a fortnightly or even monthly residual waste collection, as there is so little rubbish to put out, and that's with a family of four.

The second part of the rat solution was a 'plug in' electrical device for the house that discourages vermin. It emits an ultrasonic pitch throughout the house electrical wiring and within the room or floor in which it is plugged - and it really works. At £25, its been worth every penny, as we are no longer troubled by rat or mice prowling and have no need for nasty poisons.

The real cost of dealing with food waste should be seen in the context of the £10m spent so far in Devon on two in vessel composting plants and the collection infrastructure, and the £35m proposed for the new Exeter Energy from Waste Plant in order to meet the Landfill Directive, and other multi-million £ Mechanical Biological Treatment plants proposed elsewhere.

See [www.smartsoil.co.uk](http://www.smartsoil.co.uk) for details on the Jora composters.

*Richard Gomme*

## Revolutionary composter makes UK debut

The JK range of composters from SmartSoil are a major leap forward in the world of domestic composting, writes ALEX STACEY. This composter will change your life and the way you deal with your waste.

Although previously I had composted most of my kitchen waste and recycled what I could, given the facilities on offer in my local area, I was still faced with a distasteful problem – disposing of cooked food and meat waste, especially the regular leftovers in the bowls of my two very randomly fussy cats. That kind of waste encourages vermin and flies to the bin, and in the summer decomposes rapidly. Even in areas where the refuse is still collected weekly it will begin to fester and stink within a few days. Also, the putrefying food waste covers everything else, making it difficult and unpleasant to handle.

However, since getting the JK125 (the baby of the JK composters) those waste problems seem to be a thing of the past.

The machine arrives flat packed and although it suggests two people are needed to construct it, I found it wasn't too taxing to put together alone. You end up with a sturdy octagonal barrel supported on a stand, which raises it off the ground (tough enough and high enough to discourage any vermin). The barrel is divided into two sections and lined with insulating foam (to maintain the heat required for hot composting).

Using the JK125 couldn't be simpler. You fill one compartment with all your organic waste – including meat (raw or cooked), dairy and any other cooked food – and when it's full start

with the other compartment. By the time the second compartment is full the first one will have fully composted; the whole process should take around eight weeks. The only other thing you will need is wood pellets (I use wood-based cat litter from a supermarket).

The only way to discover the limits of what to compost is to experiment, which I am sure anyone who owns one of these will do.

If you rinse the remaining packaging you place in the bin, and because you are no longer disposing of food waste, your dustbin will not smell anymore!

What you will realise very quickly, however, is how much of your waste you cannot recycle or compost – nearly all of it is various kinds of plastic packaging.



**Industrial Food Waste  
Digester – Jora 5100 or  
“The Hog”**

>“I spent 2 years looking for a commercial digester system before I discovered and installed “The Hog” or Jora 5100 Food Waste Digester. I hadn’t seen anything I liked until I found Grow Green’s digester. They had the best product on the market, so I bought it”.  
*Hotel in Galway, name on application*

> “We collect all the food waste and compost it in Grow Green’s digester Jora 5100. It has been so successful that we frequently have to turn local businesses away because we’re already operating at full capacity. It’s great to be able to show people that zero waste is a realistic goal.”

*Roger Warburton,  
Environmental Awareness  
Development Officer with  
Global Action Plan, Dublin  
Civic Centre, Ballymun,  
Dublin 9.*

Testimonials

**“The Big Pig” Food  
Waste Composter**

>“I have 2 large dogs and we use the “Big Pig” to compost their waste, along with our food waste from the house. It works really well and has solved both problems for us”.  
*Mr. Cunningham, Dungarvan.*

>“Running my “Big Pig” has brought me back to the old days. It really does take all food waste from the kitchen, just like a big pig.”  
*Mrs. O’Dea, Carlow.*

>“The greatest advantage is that being 100% rodent proof I am not worried about putting my food waste ‘outdoors’, plus the speed it composts at – working all year through, winter and summer, is a big bonus”.  
*Mary Burke, Louth*

>Jora 270 or “The Big Pig” Domestic Food Waste Digester  
“I compost all my household food waste, and cardboard. The “Big Pig” really works and I’m getting a return on my investment every week in reduced bin charges”.  
*Mrs. Delaney, Cork.*