

## Procedure for Brewing Compost Teas 200 Gallon Compostwerks Brewer

1. Locate Brewer where you have access to clean water and a 110 volt electrical source. Raise brewer using wooden blocks so that a bucket can fit under the 2 ½ inch drain.
  - a. You can also build a platform to facilitate gravity dispensing.
2. Make sure 2 ½ inch drain valve is closed at bottom of tank.
3. Set the air diverter valve so that 100% of air is coming up through the bottom of tank.
4. Install the two air pumps with the hose clamps. Make sure that the AL-80 and AL-60 pumps are installed as indicated on tubing label. **Plug in air pumps before filling with water. Never unplug air pumps while brewer is filled with water.** Fill Brewer with water to the 200 gallon mark. If equipped, plug in heater after water level covers heater element.
  - a. If using municipal (chlorinated) water, let brewer run for 30 to 45 minutes after reaching full gallon mark to volatilize chlorine. This is not necessary if using well water.
5. Allow water to warm to ambient daytime temperature. This may take 24 hours. If using the optional heater 76-78 degrees during brew cycle is normally ideal.
  - a. Monitor temperature so that heater shuts off at 78 degrees F. Use a thermometer to monitor temperature. Adjust temperature with dial on side of heater.
  - b. During summer, heater may not be necessary.
6. Add food source bag contents (small plastic bag) to tank.
  - a. The food sources that you add is specific to brewing either a fungal or bacterial tea.
  - b. Add the contents of the food source bag. The water will turn water a dark color
  - c. Allow water to circulate for 10 minutes after adding compost.
7. Put the extraction chamber into the opening at the top of the brewer, and connect the air tube with the hose clamp.
8. Set air diverter valve so about 30% of air comes from bottom and 70% through the extraction chamber.
  - a. This prevents biology from settling in and turning anaerobic and to keep the mixture homogenous.
9. Gradually add compost over a two minute period. Do not dump the contents in all at once.
10. Allow mixture to brew for 20 to 36 hours depending on intended use.
  - a. Foaming is a completely natural process of compost tea brewing. This foam is harmless. Add 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil when you begin the brew cycle if you find this objectionable.
  - b. Use only the best compost and microbial foods. They are available at [www.compostwerks.com](http://www.compostwerks.com).
  - c. Use the tea within four hours if you are not actively oxygenating.

11. When ready to dispense the compost tea, turn off the heater if equipped.
  - a. The heater has a thermal shut off if water level drops while it is still on. It will need to be reset if this happens.
  
12. Open 2 inch bottom drain valve to drain tea, or use a small submersible pump.
  - a. You may choose to install a 90 degree elbow to this drain to facilitate draining.
  - b. Some larger particles may be suspended in the compost tea. This is completely normal, but may clog your spray equipment. You can strain the tea, but use a 40 mesh screen or larger so that the larger microbes are not filtered out.
  
13. Remove the extraction chamber, and remove the spent compost. Open all valves. **The brewer must be cleaned right after use. Wipe down inside of brewer with fresh water and a light vinegar solution to remove bio-film. Do not scratch the inside of the brewer.**
  - a. It is very important to keep brewer clean.
  - b. Inside of brewer should never feel slimy to the touch or look dirty.
  - c. As needed, rinse with mild bleach solution and rinse thoroughly.
  - d. **Never forget to clean the brewer after every batch.**
  
14. Allow to air dry.