

15 Questions to Ask Before You Buy a Composting Machine

Ask every supplier the same 15 questions, write their answers side by side, and compare like for like.

	Supplier A	Supplier B	Supplier C
	Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____
About the machine			
1. What basis is the capacity stated on: input mass or chamber volume, at what moisture, per cycle or per day?			
2. What is the connected load and the running load, in kW? How many units a day?			
3. What is the material of construction, component by component?			
4. What are the motor and gearbox ratings, and are they branded, industrial-duty parts?			
5. How is the electrical panel protected from water, dust and pests?			
6. What is the total cycle time, including loading and discharge?			
7. What happens if power fails mid-cycle, and is there a manual override?			

	Supplier A	Supplier B	Supplier C
	Name:	Name:	Name:
About the process			
8. How much bulking agent does it need, and what kind?			
9. How much microbial culture does it use, how often, and at what cost?			
10. Is the output a finished soil amendment or does it need curing? What lab evidence?			
11. What can't go into the machine?			
About delivery and after			
12. What are the complete site requirements?			
13. Where is the nearest service engineer, and what response time is committed?			
14. What documents come with the machine?			
15. What does the warranty exclude?			

Hold us to the same list. These are the answers we put in writing on every quotation.

- 1.** Kg of wet kitchen waste fed per day, weighed as it goes in, at normal Indian moisture. 25 kg to 2 tonnes a day; each load runs a 4 to 6 hour cycle. Quotation states daily input, batch size and cycles a day.
- 2.** Quotation states connected kW (all motors plus heater) and typical units a day. Example: our 25 kg machine uses about 4 units (kWh) a day.
- 3.** Vessel, all waste-contact parts and frame in SS 304 from branded mills such as Jindal Stainless. IS 2062 MS frame with protective coating on request. Mill test certificates on request.
- 4.** Branded, industrial-duty IE2 three-phase motors for continuous duty, with branded gearboxes chosen by motor power: worm on smaller machines, helical or planetary on larger ones. kW and gearbox type on the quotation.
- 5.** Panel mounted away from the wash-down area; cable entries sealed with glands; mesh guards fitted wherever rodents are present.
- 6.** 4 to 6 hour machine cycle. Loading, discharge and cleaning: about 30 minutes a day on a 25 kg machine.
- 7.** Shredder and agitator each run from their own push buttons without the controller. No automatic restart after a power cut; if off for more than about 2 hours, run a fresh full cycle.
- 8.** Dry sawdust or crushed air-dry garden waste: 500 g to 2 kg per 25 kg of waste by wetness, about 1 kg for normal kitchen waste. Dosing card and scoop supplied; operator trained.
- 9.** About 1 to 2 g of culture per kg of waste. At bulk prices of Rs 100 to 200 per kg, roughly Rs 75 to 300 a month for a 25 kg a day machine.
- 10.** Usually no separate curing. Every lot in our NABL-accredited lab record discharged below about 19% moisture passed C:N under 20:1. Cure 1 to 2 weeks if the batch is wet, the waste is mostly woody, the output is for vegetables eaten raw, or C:N is above 20:1.
- 11.** Plastics, metal, glass, large bones, shells, coconut husk (unless shredded, small amounts), sanitary waste, medicines, chemicals, large amounts of oil.
- 12.** See our free Site Readiness Checklist at tgmc.co.in/owc-installation-requirements/
- 13.** Video-call diagnosis usually the same working day; spares couriered next working day; spares kit and trained operator with every machine; local electrician briefed; engineer visit when it can't be fixed remotely.
- 14.** Operation and maintenance manual, electrical wiring drawing, spare-parts list with part numbers.
- 15.** 12 months on manufacturing defects. Excludes wear parts, non-segregated waste or foreign objects, unprotected voltage problems, flood/fire/lightning, unauthorised repair, use outside the manual, consumables, site works, and rodent damage where glands or guards were removed.

Want these answers for your site, in writing?

Email info@tgmc.co.in with your daily wet waste in kg. We reply with a sized quotation that answers all 15.