What does Neem Oil Cake do?

Neem is good for everything. It’s a natural medicinal additive. In our experience it keeps the pile “healthy.” That’s as far as we can go on the reasons why we use it and recommend it.

Simple Precaution

If you are stirring the pile with your hands:
1. Wear gloves if you want to handle decomposing organic matter directly.
2. Wash your hands well (preferably with soap) after you have worked with the decomposing matter.

A tip from Home science class

If your diet has a lot of lime or musambi, then you need to add baking soda every week in all three containers to keep acidity in check. A highly acidic pile will have slower decomposition. (add 1 tablespoon of baking soda every week in each container)

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Good flies and Bad flies

Nobody told us this in 10th std biology class

What are soldier fly maggots? The soldier fly is the good fly of the compost heap. It suppresses the eco-cycle of the house-fly, which is the pest carrying fly. It can become quite prolific in a compost heap and while hundreds of them look repulsive, they are harmless. The soldier fly emerges from these maggots. A good dose of neem powder keeps the population in control. (2 tablespoons every fortnight in each container)

1. Not adding equal amounts of Remix Powder.

   This makes the pile too wet and smelly and attracts a lot of flies. You need the carbon of the Remix Powder to offset the moisture in the nitrogen rich kitchen waste. You have to put Remix Powder everyday. 4-5 fistfuls when you begin and later on adjust this to suit the moisture levels in the pile.

2. Leaving the pile to become compacted, wet and slimy and therefore smelly.

   Alternating kitchen waste with Remix Powder is one way of avoiding compaction of pile. Stirring the pile if it gets compacted also helps. If your pile smells, it means you are not doing it right!

3. Not adding enough neem or turmeric powder so the pile gets too many maggots and the user feels repulsed.

   No customer can imagine the maggots. In some piles the soldier fly maggots can be quite prolific and the best thing to do is to add 2 tablespoons of neem or turmeric powder in all containers every week. Also remember these maggots are good for composting and harmless. Appreciate them.

4. Not covering the pile with paper - attracts too many fruit flies - these find their way into the kitchen and dining area.

   Customers underestimate the term “cover”. By cover we mean fully cover the surface of the waste with Remix Powder and then with newspaper, so that the flies have no exposed food waste to settle on. Tuck the paper in on all sides tightly. Remove the paper the next day to put in waste and Remix Powder, then put the same paper back.

5. Not adding enough dried leaves in the bottom container to absorb the leechate (liquid released during composting).

   Because the last container is not seen, most customers do not look at it and sometimes the leechate is a lot and the bed of leaves at the bottom is inadequate to absorb it. Once in two weeks it’s wise to inspect all the containers (units). Remove leechate in case it has collected at the bottom. Add dried leaves.

6. Not mixing half done compost with fresh kitchen waste.

   Mixing different vintages of composting matter helps accelerate the time of all the piles. Most customers don’t think that this will help reduce problems of smell and flies. We find this is a simple and sure way of reducing the problems.

7. Not adding enough water and letting the pile go dry.

   Some customers as so scared about moisture that they let the pile go very dry. This stops composting totally. The microorganisms need a film of water to live on and work. So make sure that the pile is moist - not soggy - but moist.