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PREPARING THE CAROUSEL FOR USE

It is critical to prepare the bottom of each Carousel chamber with a suitable filter material to prevent the drainage holes from becoming clogged with solids. It is very important to build a flat “roof” over the holes on top of which you place the organic starter material (soil-less potting soil from a garden supply store works well). The roof or filter layer must allow water to pass but not solids. The depth of this material is not significant, but it must not allow solids to pass through! About 2 inches (50 mm) should do it.

IMPORTANT! If you are using the Carousel with flush toilets, know that you should not use crocking material that floats. When the toilet is flushed the crocking material will float allowing feces and toilet paper to blind the holes on each of the inner Carousel chambers. This will result in liquid building up above the inner door and it will leak out causing quite an unpleasant mess including fouling of the rope used to rotate the chambers. A nylon or fiberglass screen should be placed on top of the crocking material and under the organic starter materials to insure that no solids are flushed out of the chambers.

Do not use material that is round or the rounded part will fall into the holes, just like a round marble in the hole in the board of the game Chinese checkers.

The following are the materials and procedures you need to know:

The concept is the same one would use to “crock” a flower pot before placing the soil in the pot. The best materials are flat pieces of matter that cannot block the holes. The diameter of these pieces should be about 1.5 Inches (38 mm) or of a size that they cover the holes, but are laying flat.

On top of the non-buoyant crocking material, one can put a layer of composted leaves to inoculate the chamber in use with composting micro-organisms.

Therefore, any material that is flat, such as thin slabs broken slate from a slate roof or shale stone is best for the lowest level next to the drain holes. Alternatively, as you can figure out, any safe material that you can find. Recycled plastic or glass works, but it doesn't biodegrade. While biodegradability is a good goal, the function that these “chips” performs does not require it.

The EcoTech Staff