

# OPERATING MANUAL 

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www.foodcycler.com


## Welcome to your cleaner, greener home!

Welcome home your FoodCycler - your new lean, green, food-recycling machine. This eco-smart technology transforms your leftovers and food scraps into a nutrientrich soil amendment, reducing food waste and producing a garden-ready supplement, scientifically proven to nourish your garden! But you already know why you bought it. Now, let's learn how to use it!

This guide will familiarize you with your FoodCycler, introduce you to its features and functions, while also showing you how to use and care for your unit.

To ensure that you are using your unit safely and effectively, be sure to read this guide thoroughly prior to operating your new unit. Please be advised that this unit is designed for home and office use only.

## Contents

IMPORTANT SAFETY GUIDELINES ..... 1
PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS ..... 2
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOODCYCLER ..... 3
HOW TO OPERATE YOUR FOODCYCLER ..... 4
REPLACING YOUR CARBON FILTERS ..... 10
CLEANING YOUR FOODCYCLER ..... 12
CLEANING YOUR BUCKET ..... 13
TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE ..... 14
FAQ. ..... 15

1. How should I store my unit? ..... 15
2. What you can put into FoodCycler? ..... 15
3. What you shouldn't put into FoodCycler? ..... 15
4. Can I store unprocessed food waste in the unit? ..... 15
5. What to do with your byproduct (or "foodilizer")? ..... 16
6. How to extend filter life ..... 16
7. How do I keep my bucket clean? ..... 16

## IMPORTANT SAFETY GUIDELINES

This appliance is intended for household use, and similar applications, such as: residential kitchens, workplace staff rooms, bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels and other accommodation service environments.
The FoodCycler is a Household Electric Appliances product.
Basic safety instructions should always be followed when handling electrical appliances. This includes the following:

- Carefully read all instruction materials accompanying the product.
- To avoid electrical shocks, keep cords, plugs and portable electrical appliances away from water and other liquids.
- Unplug the unit from outlet when not in use, prior to servicing and adding/removing parts, and before cleaning the unit. Allow the unit's interior components to cool before handling.
- Avoid touching moving parts.
- Do not operate any appliance with a damaged cord of plug, a unit showing signs of malfunction, or any product that has been dropped or damaged in any way.
- The use of attachments not recommended or sold by the manufacturer may cause fire, electric shock, or injury.
- Do not operate the machine outdoors if the unit is at all exposed to the elements.
- Do not let electrical cord hang from counter or table edge.
- Unit must only be plugged into properly grounded outlets
- Do not touch any hot surfaces. Use the handles or knobs provided for safe handling.
- Do not place the unit on or near a hot gas or electric burner. Do not place the unit inside a heated oven.
- Do not use appliance for any purpose other than its intended use.
- Do not dismantle, reconfigure, alter or adapt the unit in any way.
- Keep the appliance and power cords out of reach of children.


## SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

## PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS



| CATEGORY | SPECIFICATION |
| :--- | :--- |
| Product Name | FoodCycler |
| Model Number | FC-30/FC-30E |
| Processing Mode(s) | Drying, Grinding, Cooling |
| Power Input | FC-30: 120V 60Hz |
|  | FC-30E: 220-240V 50/60Hz |
| Max. Wattage | 500 W |
| Energy Usage (Running) | Approximately 0.8KWh per cycle |
| Energy Usage (Standby Mode) | 2 kWh per month |
| Processing Time | $3-8 h o u r s$ |
| Capacity | Approximately 2.5 Liters |
| Waste Volume Reduction | $80 \%-90 \%$ |
| Weight (out of box) | 19 lbs,13 ounces (9.0kg) |
| Dimensions (out of box) | (W)11" x (D)12.6 x (H)14.2" ("28cm x 32cm x36cm) |

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOODCYCLER

First things first: let's get to know your FoodCycler. It's always important to recognize the parts and features of any implement in order to properly use the technology, and fully realize its potential. So, let's make the introductions, shall we?

## PARTS

Your unit comes equipped with a:


## Removable, porcelain-coated aluminum bucket (BK-30)

Your grinding bucket is designed to fully grind and process your food waste, with perfectly calibrated resistance and strength testing.

## A set of two carbon filters (RF-30)



Our uber-efficient carbon filters are designed to wick away most odors and all dangerous methane emissions during cycling. Each subsequent filter purchase comes with a set of two filters in hermetically sealed wrap and an easy twist-on-twist-off design.

## Two filter caps

Two small funnels sit on top of your carbon filters, ensuring that the air and steam flow is properly directed toward the unit vents.


## Unit lid

With a seamless design, your unit lid slides smoothly into place prior to every cycle, insulating odors and processing sounds, and ensuring a safe, reliable cycle.

Each one of these parts forms the complete FoodCycler system. Your FoodCycler will be shipped with the waste bucket, carbon filters and lid in their correct placement inside the unit. The filter caps are located inside the unit, in the bucket.
*Open the lid and remove the filter caps prior to cycling.

## HOW TO OPERATE YOUR FOODCYCLER

Whew! Now that the introductions are done, and you are familiar with your FoodCycler's parts and functions, it's time to learn how to use your unit. Follow these steps to ensure the safe, effective setup of your unit. Let's get FoodCycling!

## SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

Review these instructions prior to running your FoodCycler for the first time.


Open back panel of unit.


Remove filter caps from unit.


Remove filter stickers, if applicable*


Install filter caps on tops of filters.


Open lid.
*Note: Not all units come with filter stickers in place. If you do not see the white plastic stickers, then they have already been removed prior to leaving the manufacturers.

## DETAILED SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

| \# | STEP | INSTRUCTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Removing the Back Panel | Face the back of your unit. Grip the plastic tab (with the arrow) at the top of the back panel. Pull down gently on tab to release the back panel from unit. |
| 2 | Removing Filter Stickers | As we've seen, your carbon filters will already be in place inside the unit. Your filters may or may not come equipped with a plastic sticker. If your unit does have carbon filter stickers along the top, you will need to remove these prior to running the unit so that air flow is not impeded. To remove the filter stickers: remove the back panel on the unit and peel off both carbon filters from the top of the carbon filters. |
| 3 | Open the Lid | To open the lid, turn the lid counterclockwise until the arrow on the bucket lid is facing the unlock symbol on the side of the unit. |
| 4 | Removing Filter Caps | Your filter caps are placed inside the closed unit to facilitate transportation. Remove the two filter caps from the inside of the unit prior to running a cycle. |
| 5 | Installing Your Filter Caps | Remove the plastic wrap form the Filter Caps and secure them over the tops of the filters inside the unit. To do so, please the circle-shaped openings on top of the filters, ensuring that the half-moon-shaped opening faces out toward the back of the unit. |
| 6 | Clothing the Lid and Back Panel | Close the unit lid by inserting it into the top of the unit, over the bucket. Turn the lid clockwise until the arrow on the lid aligns with the lock symbol on the side of the unit. Place the back panel so that the two bottom tabs fit into the grooves lining the bottom of the unit's back cavity. Push the back panel into the unit's back cavity until the panel's top fits into the unit groove. Press the sides of the back panel it snaps into place in the unit's back cavity. |

## RUNNING YOUR FOODCYCLER

1) Always ensure that no food waste falls outside of the bucket and into the unit. This may cause damage to the motor and other internal components. You should remove the bucket from the unit prior to adding food waste to the bucket. You can keep the bucket on your counter or kitchen table and fill it up with food waste throughout the day/week until you are ready to start a cycle.
2) Do not overload your bucket.

The bucket comes with a fill-line inside along the interior of the bucket. Do not add food waste above this line. Do not pack down food waste to keep it beneath the fill-line once full. Overloading the bucket might cause a jam.
3) If you find that you have more waste to add to your cycle while the unit is running, you can use your unit's Pause feature. "Pause" your unit in "Drying" cycle only; this should reduce the chance that your food waste will not be completely dry by the end of the cycle.

In most cases, the volume of your bucket's contents will be reduced by $50 \%$ within the first 30-60 mins of your cycle.

Note: Pausing the unit to add more food waste might impact the accuracy of cycle time calculation, which will extend the overall cycle period (though the cycle will never last longer than 8 hours). The by-product may not be fully processed by the end of the cycle. In this case, you may want to run the unit a second time to completely dehydrate the bucket contents.

## UNDERSTANDING MODES AND BUTTON FUNCTIONS



The Change Filter light (red) will come on when it is time to change your filter. To reset this Change Filter light once you have replaced your filters (it will not go off automatically), see Filter Reset Instructions.

The Cooling Cycle (green) is the last mode in your unit's cycle. The Cooling mode is the shortest phase and will end within 30 minutes. The unit will switch automatically to "Standby mode" once this phase is complete.

The Grinding Cycle (green) is the longest cycle mode and can last anywhere between 3-6 hours, depending on bucket contents. Once this cycle is done, the unit will switch automatically to Cooling.

The unit's Drying Mode (green) can last anywhere between 60-100 mins and will automatically switch to Grinding once this period of time has elapsed.

Note: If this light flashing, it indicates that the unit is overloaded. The unit stop running to avoid a motor overload. In the event that you experience a bucket overload, please remove the contents causing the blockage and ensure that the bucket's grinding arm can turn. Once the blockage is removed, resume the cycle.

The Power/Start/Pause button (blue) will flash once when unit plugged in to enter the "Standby mode", press again to enter "Active mode", which will have slow air circulation running in the unit, to storage unprocessed food waste. Blue light will come on when the unit is in Active, or has been turned on. Press the button one more time to enter the "Drying" cycle (Solid brighter blue light).

Pressing the button or open the lid when the unit is processing will pause the cycle. If you would like to add more food waste to the current cycle (during Drying), you can continue from where you left off by locking the lid and pressing the Start button once again, as you did when you first started the cycle. The unit will resume processing.
The unit will go back to "Standby Mode" once press and hold this button for 3 sec.

## RUNNING A CYCLE



Open lid.


Place bucket back inside unit.

Let Cycle run for 3-8 hours.



Remove bucket from unit.


Close lid.


Let unit revert to Standby, or shut unit off.


Add food waste to bucket.


Press Start.

## DETAILED RUNNING INSTRUCTIONS

| $\#$ | STEP | INSTRUCTION |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Open Lid | To open the lid, turn the lid counterclockwise until the arrow on <br> the bucket lid is facing the unlock symbol on the side of the unit. |
| 2 | Remove Bucket | To remove the bucket, grip the bucket's metal handle and pull <br> straight up. Slightly turn the arm in the bucket to loose the bottom <br> gear once you feel hard to pull the metal straight up. |
| 3 | Add Food Waste | You can add your food waste throughout the day, until your <br> bucket is full. Do not load bucket beyond the fill line. |
| 4 | Put Bucket Back Inside Unit | Refer picture instruction below |
| 5 | Clothing the Lid | Close the unit lid by inserting it into the top of the unit, over the <br> bucket. Turn the lid clockwise until the arrow on the lid aligns with <br> the lock symbol on the side of the unit. |
| 6 | Start Processing | Refer previous "Mode and Button function instruction" |
| 7 | Let Unit Run | The unit's cycle can take anywhere between 3-8 hours, depending <br> on what is being cycled, and the volume of the bucket's contents. |
| 8 | Leave the unit in Standby <br> or Shut Off | The unit will beep once the cycle is complete and will revert to <br> Standby mode. |

## INSTALLING YOUR BUCKET INSIDE UNIT



Insert the bucket by aligning the arrow shape on the rim of the bucket with the arrow stamped along the interior of the unit cavity. If the bucket does not seem to fit into the unit, try turning the bucket's bottom bolt or inside arm slightly and then try inserting the bucket again.

## REPLACING YOUR CARBON FILTERS

Replacing your carbon filters is essential to ensuring an odorless cycle. If the machine is used regularly, the filters will need to be changed every 3-4 month ( 500 Cycler Hours). At the end of this period, the Change Filter Indicator Light will notify you that it is time to change the filters (Red light). Always change both filters at same time.


Open back panel.


Remove new filter packaging


Reset Change Filter Light.


Remove filter caps.


Install new filters (clockwise).


Close back panel.


Remove used filters (counterclockwise)


Place filter caps over new filters.

## DETAILED CARBON FILTER REPLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

| $\#$ | STEP | INSTRUCTION |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Removing the Back <br> Panel | Face the back of your unit. Grip the plastic tab (with the arrow) at the <br> top of the back panel. Pull down gently on tab to release the back panel <br> from unit. |
| 2 | Removing Filter Caps | Your filter caps are placed inside the closed unit to facilitate <br> transportation. Remove the two filter caps from the inside of the unit <br> prior to running a cycle. |
| 3 | Remove Old Filters | Remove the used filters by twisting them counter-clockwise, making <br> sure to twist up and straight so as not to jam the filters into their screw- <br> in cavities. |
| 4 | Remove Packaging <br> from New Filters | Remove the plastic wrap from the filters and remove the stickers from <br> the top of the filters, if present. |
| 5 | Install New Filters In <br> Unit | Place the new filters inside the unit by placing them so that they are <br> straight in the screw-in cavities, and twist clockwise until they are snug <br> inside the unit. |
| 6 | Install Filter Caps <br> Over New Filters | Lower the filter caps directly onto the new filters. Slide them over the <br> filters until they appear to be sitting straight on the filters, then push <br> down on them slightly so that they fit into place. |
| 7 | Reset Filter Indicator <br> Light | To turn off the Filter Indicator light (Reset), feel around along the upper, <br> inner lip of the unit back cavity (where, if the unit's back panel were in <br> place, a white Filter Reset arrow would point). Press and hold the small <br> round button until you hear a beep. The Change Filter Indicator Light <br> should go off. Refer picture instruction below. |
| 8 | Close Back Panel | Place the back panel so that the two bottom tabs fit into the grooves <br> lining the bottom of the unit's back cavity. Push the back panel into the <br> unit's back cavity until the panel's top fits into the unit groove. Press the <br> sides of the back panel it snaps into place in the unit's back cavity. |



The Reset Filter button is small and round. Press and hold it for three seconds, until your unit beeps, and the Change Filter Light will switch off.

## CLEANING YOUR FOODCYCLER

Keeping your FoodCycler clean will help ensure that your unit performs cleanly and efficiently. Both the exterior of the unit and the removable bucket can and should be cleaned regularly. Follow the directions below to keep your FoodCycler looking (and working) its best.

## CLEANING THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR MACHINE



Soak dishcloth.


Wring out dishcloth until damp (not wet).


Wipe outside of unit until clean.


Remove any remaining moisture with dry cloth.

## Warning:

DO NOT immerse your FoodCycler unit in water! This will damage your unit beyond repair and might cause electric shock. Exterior, cosmetic cleaning only!

## Notes:

- With particularly stubborn grime, you can add a small amount of dish soap to your damp dish cloth before thoroughly wringing out most of the moisture.
- Use a dry, lint-free cloth or paper towel to remove all moisture


## CLEANING YOUR BUCKET

Your FoodCycler's grinding bucket is made from tough aluminum and a protective porcelain coating, making your bucket dishwasher friendly for ultimate convenience. Cleaning Your bucket is not necessary for effective processing and is entirely optional.


Remove bucket.*


Run a hot or normal cycle.


Remove all blockages \& loose particles from bucket interior.


Place bucket in lower rack of dishwasher.

## *Warning:

Allow your bucket to cool before handling it or placing it back in your FoodCycler.

## Notes:

- You can also hand wash your bucket, using warm water, a small amount of dish soap and a dish cloth. Scrub around and beneath the grinding arms as much as possible to clean all available surfaces.
- Cleaning your bucket is optional. The bucket is usually self-cleaning during the cycle.
- For stubborn residue, run a cycle with only citrus rinds (lemons, orange, etc.), This will help remove most residue from the bucket.

If you notice that the coating inside the bucket has begun to chip, don't worry. This is only cosmetic damage, and is a result of a hard material scraping along the bucket coating during a cycle. Chipping and scratching will not affect the function of the unit.

## TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

## SELF-DIAGNOSIS INDICATOR LIGHTS



| INDICATOR <br> STATUS | FLASHING \& UNIT BEEPS | STUCK ON LIGHT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CHANGE FILTER <br> LIGHT | $/$ | Reset or Change filter |
| COOLING <br> LIGHT | Components Issue- Contact <br> Customer Service | Normal- In Cooling Cycle |
| GRINDING <br> LIGHT | Components Issue- Contact <br> Customer Service | Normal- In Grinding Cycle |
| DRYING LIGHT | Bucket Jam. Will need to be <br> emptied and restart. | Normal-In Drying Cycle |
| POWER LIGHT | Check if lid locked (Pause mode <br> only flash without beeps) | If stuck on but no action <br> when pressing, Requires <br> Manual Reset |

If your unit is signaling a Components Issue, do not continue using your unit. Contact our customer service team for support.

## MANUAL RESET INSTRUCTIONS

A Manual Reset is necessary when your unit's operating system requires resetting to an earlier mode following a minor malfunction. Follow these instructions to properly complete a manual reset:

1) Plug unit in
2) Press and hold the Power/Start button for upwards of 3 seconds, until you hear a beep and the unit shuts off
3) Unplug your unit for 1 minute
4) Plug your unit back in and wait ten seconds
5) Press the Power/Start button as you normally would to start a cycle

## FAQ

## 1. How should I store my unit?

- Keep the unit at least 6 " from all walls and surfaces to ensure proper ventilation of any steam emissions.
- Make sure that the unit is sitting on a flat, dry surface.
- Keep the unit away from heaters and kitchen appliances which generate heat.


## 2. What you can put into FoodCycler?

Like any healthy diet, the FoodCycler performs best when fed a wide variety of foods. To ensure optimal food waste breakdown, mix food waste together, with heavier foods interspersed with lighter, dryer foods. Avoid high concentrations of the following foods:

- starches (bread, cake, rice, pasta, mashed potatoes, stuffing)
- citrus fruit rinds
- condiments, dressings, sauces \& soups
- nut butters
- jam, jellies, marmalades
- high sugar fruits (grapes, cherries, melon, oranges, bananas, etc.)

The dense, starchy and/or moisture-rich composition of these foods make them difficult to process in large quantities.
For high fiber contents such as corn peels and pineapple leaf, please cut into small pieces and put into the bucket, because these kinds of contents will easily warp around the arm and jam it.
Once jam occurs, the unit will stop processing and switch to self-protection mode comes with flashing Drying light. You need to remove these contents and restart the cycle.

## 3. What you shouldn't put into FoodCycler?

Do not attempt to cycle anything other than organic wastes in your FoodCycler (such as glass, metal or wood). Likewise, do not cycle hard bones (such as pork, lamb or beef bones), pits, candy, gum, nuts or hard shells: these materials may cause serious damage to the bucket, and/or cause a motor overload. Do not add oil, flammable materials or compounds, or water to the unit.
Note: If a unit or bucket is damaged from cycling, or coming into contact with, the materials listed above, the associated warranties will be considered void, as the inclusion of these materials goes beyond the reasonable use of the unit.

## 4. Can I store unprocessed food waste in the unit?

We do not recommend leaving unprocessed food waste in the unit for long periods of time.

The carbon filters are only able to fully wick away odors during processing. Leaving decomposing organic matter in the enclosed unit will generate odors, methane gas and might attract fruits flies and/or other pests.

## 5. What to do with your byproduct (or "foodilizer")?

- The unit's by-product can be used as a soil amendment, or homemade fertilizer. For best results, we recommend adding the by-product to the soil at a ratio of 1 part fertilizer to 10 parts soil. We also recommend waiting one week following soil application before planting seeds or transplanting plants to the newly fertilized soil. Further, the healthier your food waste, the healthier your garden! Foods high in fat, oil, sodium or sugar may not produce optimal results.
(Do not add the by-product directly to the soil surface. This will not feed the soil sufficiently, and the by-product will absorb moisture, which will increase the likelihood that you're the soil amendment will mold and/or attract unwanted critters to your yard or garden.
- You can also throw it into your green bin or garbage, as any methane-generating compounds have been eliminated during the cycle and the resulting by-product is completely harmless for the environment.


## 6. How to extend filter life

The filter indicator is to remind you to replace your filters within 3-4 month, or approximately 500 cycle hours (whichever comes first). However, the filter life depends on the quality and quantity of the use of the unit.

- Running a cycle with only citrus rinds (lemons, orange, etc), will help mitigate filter odors
- We recommend shutting the FoodCycler off before leaving your home for an extended period of time. You may also unplug the unit from the wall prior to any trips away from home. Leaving the unit in Active mode (Start button lit up) will also consume the life of the filters.


## 7. How do I keep my bucket clean?

Cleaning your bucket is optional. For the most part, the bucket will self-clean from the previous cycle during the next cycle. If you find that the bucket contains a residue from the previous cycle and you would like to remove it, you can run a cycle with only citrus rinds (lemons, orange, etc.). The citrus peels will help clear any residue or caked-on food waste.

If a jam occurs and you cannot remove the blockage manually, soak the bucket overnight in warm water (soap optional). Avoid using metal tools or metal wire brushes to clear out the blockage.


## Thank you for FoodCycling with us!

Please do not hesitate to contact to our customer care team if you have any questions or concerns.

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