

## **How to Use Bokashi Juice**

Bokashi “juice” or “tea” is the excess fluid produced by the bokashi composting process. This fluid must be drained out of your bokashi bin every couple of days – but did you know that it contains a highly-potent amount of nutrients and microorganisms?

Many bokashi instructions fail to mention that you can make use of this byproduct while you wait for your bokashi compost to finish. Here are some of the great uses of bokashi juice and instructions for how to prepare it.

### **What is Bokashi Juice Good For?**

When bokashi juice is fully concentrated (not diluted with water) it is extremely acidic, and can be used as an all-natural drain cleaner. It can also be added to ponds and streams to kill harmful algae and bacteria.

When bokashi juice is diluted with water, it makes a great fertilizer for your plants.

### **How do I use it?**

Almost all bokashi bins will produce fluid, though the type of food scraps you use will make a difference in the quantity. Fruits and vegetables, especially juicy ones like tomatoes, will produce more liquid. Be sure not to use too much bokashi bran as well if you want a lot of liquid, since that will absorb a lot of it.

Bokashi juice must be drained from your bokashi bin/bucket every couple of days, or else it will turn sour and produce a bad smell. If you bought a specialty bucket that was made specifically for bokashi composting, you’ll probably have a spigot that you can use to easily drain the juice. If not, you can use a siphon or simply tip the bin to the side (gently!) to allow the liquid to pour out.

You can pour your liquid directly into toilets and sinks to unclog your drains, or empty it into nearby water sources to keep the water supply clean.

If you would rather use your bokashi juice as a fertilizer, you will need to dilute it with water at a 1:100 ratio – 1 tsp of juice to 2-3 liters of water. It can be a little stronger if you’re fertilizing established trees or shrubs, but will need to be weaker for smaller plants or seedlings.

Spray your diluted bokashi juice on the soil around the plants. Never spray it directly on the foliage, as the acid will destroy the leaves.

You must use your bokashi juice within 24 hours, as it spoils very quickly. If you don’t have a chance to use one batch before it goes bad, don’t worry! Depending on the mix of food scraps in your bin, you should have plenty more juice available in a couple days!

The beauty of bokashi composting is that even the byproducts of the process can be used to help your garden and the environment. So not only are you preventing your food waste from being sent to the landfill, you're creating multiple beneficial sources of nutrients and microorganisms!