

# Restarting Your Digester after Slow Periods

## For All Digester Series

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### Overview

Business condition may cause the usage of the digester to drop or even stop completely. Below, we define three stages of usage and how to properly restart your digester once conditions return to normal.

### Stage 1: Minimal Use

During this period, the digester will still be in use but significantly less. We recommend that daily and weekly cleaning is conducted more frequently. At this time, the monthly or bimonthly microorganism recharge should still be conducted.

The following steps should be followed as more food waste is available:

- Make sure to introduce food waste slowly
  - Small consistent feeds of 30-50lbs
- If you do not have microorganism on site, please contact BioHiTech to place your order

### Stage 2: Non-Use

During this period, the digester will primarily not be used. We recommend a full cleaning of the unit. Since the digester has been running with no food waste being added, the digester will need food waste and microorganisms.

The following steps to restart the digester are:

- Make sure to have 2 bags of microorganism on site
- There needs to be at least 30-50 pounds of food waste ready to go into the machine.
- Place the food waste in the digester

- Make sure the digester is in Auto Mode. Allow the microorganisms to mix well with the original food waste pile (10-15 minutes) and then add more food waste.
- At this time add the 2<sup>nd</sup> bag of microorganism.
- If you do not have microorganism on site, please contact BioHiTech to place your order.

### **Step 3: Shut Down**

During this period, the digester will be completely shut down. We recommend a full cleanout and wash down of the digester. Since the digester has not be in use it will need to be restarted.

The following steps to restart the digester are:

- Make sure to have a bag of microorganism on site
- Make sure to have the proper amount of Bio Media (Chip) on site
- Turn on digester and let it run for at least 10 minuets to allow for water and internal temperature to rise.
- There needs to be at least 30-50 pounds of food waste ready to go into the machine.
- Place the food waste in the digester
- Make sure the digester is in Auto Mode. Allow the microorganisms to mix well with the original food waste pile (10-15 minutes) and then add more food waste.
- At this time add the 2<sup>nd</sup> bag of Microorganism
- If you do not have microorganism or BioMedia (Chip) on site, please contact BioHiTech to place your order.

\* You will see digestion start off slowly and then take off after several hours. This slow time is when the microorganisms are coming out of “hibernation” (spore state) and eating and reproducing. Once they have all come out of their spore state you will see high digestion rates\*

## **Contacting BioHiTech Support**

If additional assistance is needed with this procedure or need supplies, contact BioHiTech support at [support@biohitech.com](mailto:support@biohitech.com) or 888-876-9300