

Summary of Pilot-scale composting for qualitative evaluation of disintegration

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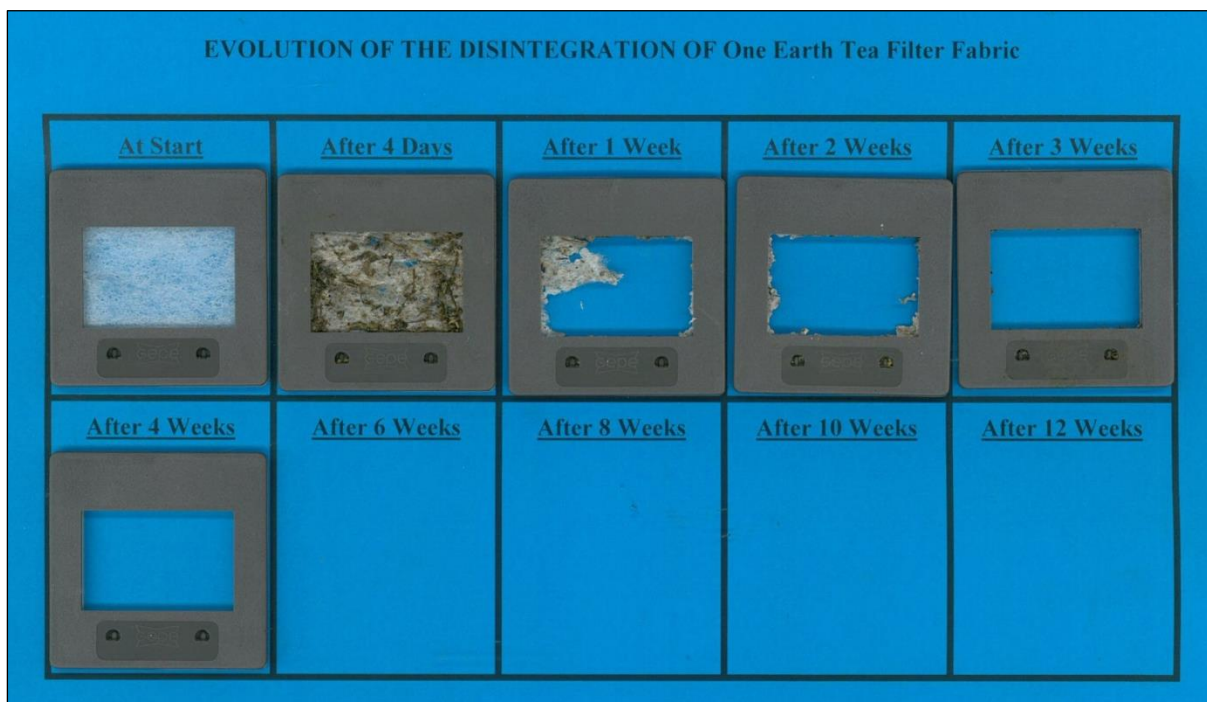
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Dear Mr. Stephen Foss,

Please find herewith results up to 4 weeks. In this test the disintegration of One Earth® Tea Bags and One Earth® Tea Filter Fabric is qualitatively evaluated during 12 weeks of composting, simulating industrial composting conditions, however discontinued after 4 weeks as composting was complete.

A visual presentation of the evolution of the disintegration of **One Earth® Tea Filter Fabric** in slide frames during the composting process is shown in Figure 4. The disintegration of the filter paper went fluently. After 4 days of composting, tears and little holes were noticed in the test material. Three days later, large holes were noticed in the fabric. The disintegration went on and after 2 weeks of composting, small borders of test material remained present. Two weeks later all filter paper in the slide frames was disappeared.

Figure 1. Visual presentation of the evolution of the disintegration of One Earth® Tea Filter Fabric in slide frames during the composting process



The mixture in the bin is regularly turned manually during which the disintegration of the test items is visually monitored. Figure 3 shows a visual comparison between **The One Earth® Tea Bags** at start and after 1 week of composting. Already after 1 week only a few teabags could be retrieved. The remaining teabags were very fragile: tears were noticed in the filter material. One week later all tea bags were completely disappeared. This was confirmed during the next turnings of the content of the bin after 3 and 4 weeks of composting.

Normally the test still lasts 8 weeks. Because complete disintegration of both samples was obtained after 21 days, the test was stopped after 28 days.

Figure 2. visual comparison between The One Earth® Tea Bags at start and after 1 week of composting

