



MIDWEST GROW KITS

Midwest Grow Kits Revision 3.0; 2018

Midwest's EZ Bulk Casing Guide

Supplies Needed

- 1 - 5lb bag of Midwest's Pre-Mixed Casing at room temperature
- 1 - Plastic/Rubbermaid fruiting chamber - *(See table for approximate container size needed)*
- 1 - Fully Colonized Spawn Bag or 6 half-pint colonized substrate jars & Vermiculite

1 spawn bag or 6 jars	6 x 8 x10 container
2 spawn bags or 12 jars ** Pictured Below**	18 x 10 x 12 container **Pictured Below**
3 or 4 spawn bags or 18 jars	22 x 14 x 12 container (56Q Mega Container)
7 spawn bags or 48 jars	36 x 18 x 12 container (110 Quart Container)

*This table is just a general guideline. You want to have around 3-3.5 inches of casing/spawn in your container. Keep the ratios close to one spawn bag to one 5lb bag of casing. It's ok to add more spawn than casing, it may speed up the colonizing time but generally won't increase the yield. **Always use the same strain when mixing multiple spawn bags or jars together ***

Storage for un-opened casing mix bags

Unopened casing bags can be stored at room temperature for 4-5 weeks. If you aren't quite ready to use your casing mixture, we recommend storing it in your fridge/freezer. They can store for up to 3 months when frozen. When ready to use, casing must thaw at room temperature for 24 hours prior to using.

Step 1

Remove the polyfill from the bag. Pull apart a golf ball sized amount and begin filling the round 1" holes in the container. You want to fill each hole so you cannot see through. Use the provided micropore tape to secure the polyfill in the holes by taping over each hole. Use multiple strips of tape on each side to secure it.



Step 2

Place 2/3 to 3/4 of the casing mix on the bottom of the fruiting container. (leave enough for top layer)



Step 3

Break up fully colonized spawn bag or jars into small pieces. Its best to break them up first into a separate container or bag and then dump it into the fruiting container and mix well. Try and get the spawn mixed evenly throughout the casing mixture. If you are using jars, you may need to use a food processor or coffee grinder to break up the cake better. Jars can be very difficult to break up.



Step 4

Take the remaining casing and put a top, thin cover layer (1/2 inch to 3/4 inch) over the entire surface of the spawn/casing mixture, so that there are no exposed grains. Pat it down lightly to create a smooth surface.



Mist the inside walls of the chamber with fresh clean water. Put the lid on tight. Make sure the entire container is in the dark. Use a blanket to keep it dark if you are using a clear container from one of our kits. Continue to mist the walls of the chamber on a daily basis to help ensure the humidity stays elevated.

Step 5

After 7-10 days, you need to check on the tub. If it's 100% colonized you will see bits of white mycelium poking through the surface. Now it is time to introduce light to the fruiting chamber. Introduce light by exposing the top of the chamber to room light or daylight. You can cut a hole in the lid and tape a piece of plastic wrap over the hole to create an area for light to enter. Use a desk lamp or any other type of light if room light is not available. They need light 10-12 hours per day.



After 10 Days

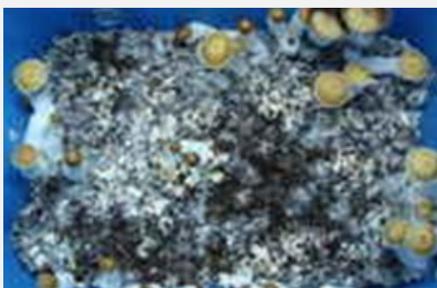


After 14 Days

Soon you will start to see pins forming and mushrooms will start growing. This can take anywhere from 2 weeks up to 4 weeks depending on the size of the container and the amount of spawn used.



Pins Forming



Keep misting the sides of the container each day. Bulk grows will usually flush 2-3 times with each flush producing less mushrooms each time.

Note: *If storing bags for extended periods without freezing check the moisture level of the casing. Grab a handful of it and squeeze lightly. If you see a few drops of water come out its perfect. If no water drips out, add 1 cup of clean water and re-mix. Repeat until this consistency is achieved. This is known as "Field Capacity", the perfect water ratio for growing mushrooms.*

(Optional) Top Vermiculite Moisture Layer

This last step is optional, many people like to add a top layer of vermiculite. It is not needed in most cases. If you feel your fully colonized casing is starting to become dry this is a great way to re-hydrate the casing.

1. Once everything is re-colonized and pins are forming, sprinkle a 1 centimeter layer of vermiculite on the top, spreading it out nice and even. (You will only use a portion of the 1 gallon bag provided)
2. Brush it off any small pins or growing mushrooms.
3. Fill the spray bottle with filtered water (bottled spring water is best), mist the entire surface until it is damp. Do not over-saturate. Repeat this process every 24-48 hours as needed. Add more vermiculite as needed after picking.

Dunking?

This question is asked a lot and is debated by many. Typically you will not need to dunk your bulk grow. There is enough moisture in the casing mix to provide 3 flushes worth of mushrooms. In all our testing, dunking or floating the cake between flushes does not produce notable benefits in growth and its very easy to damage the cake.

Bulk grow pictures in all different sizes submitted by our customers.

