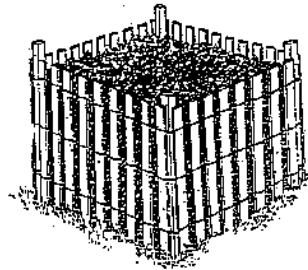


Option 3: Snow-Fence Composter

Materials:

- 4 Wooden or metal posts, 4-5ft long (use rot-resistant wood)
- Heavy wire for ties
- 13ft length of snow fencing, at least 3ft tall.



Tools:

- Tin snips for heavy wire
- Sledge hammer
- Pliers

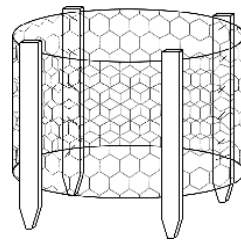
Instructions:

1. Pound the four wooden or metal posts in the ground where you would like to set up your composter. Place the posts 3ft apart.
2. Cut the heavy wire into lengths for ties. Attach the snow fence to the outside of the posts with wire ties using pliers.
3. Attach the ends of the snow fence together in the same way, forming a 3ft square enclosure.

Option 4: Wire-Mesh Holding Unit

Materials:

- 10ft length of 36-inch-wide 1-inch galvanized chicken wire
- Heavy wire for ties
- Three or four 4ft-tall wooden or metal posts



Tools:

- Heavy-duty wire or tin snips
- Pliers
- Hammer (for chicken wire bin)

Instructions:

1. Fold back 3 to 4 inches of wire at each end of the cut piece to provide a strong, clean edge that will not poke or snag and that will be easy to latch.
2. Stand the wire in a circle and set it in place for the compost pile.
3. Cut the heavy wire into lengths for ties. Attach the ends of the chicken wire together with the wire ties, using pliers.
4. Space wood or metal posts around the inside of the chicken-wire circle. Holding the posts tightly against the wire, pound them firmly into the ground to provide support.

Building Your Own Compost Bin



A Step-by-Step Guide

DIY Compost Bins

If you would rather build your own compost bin than purchase one, there are a number of options.

The best size for a compost bin is no smaller than 3ft x 3ft x 3ft and no larger than 5ft x 5ft x 5ft. This size allows for sufficient heat retention and decomposition. Any smaller, and the materials will not compost very quickly.

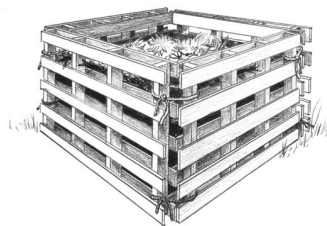
A compost bin can be made of many different rigid and durable materials including fencing, pallets or even chicken wire. To get the best results, the compost bin must have decent insulation and provide enough ventilation to aid the decomposition process. Adding a door onto the compost bin helps harvesting the finished compost much easier, while a removable lid gives easy access for aerating the compost.

The options below include a bin made from used pallets and a bin from purchased lumber (cedar resists rot). After choosing your ideal location, go ahead and start building your bin!

Option 1: Pallet Compost Bin

Materials:

- 5 pallets, all the same size, with slat spacing of 1/2" - 1".
- Wire or rope



Instructions:

1. Place one pallet with slats up on the ground.
2. Arrange the remaining pallets upright (short sides up) around each side of the base to form a box.
3. Attach the sides at each corner with wire or rope.

The front pallet acts as a hinged door, which allows you to access your compost by undoing the ties on one side and swinging it open. You can also remove the entire pallet to have wider access when adding or turning the material.

If you would like an additional bin for storing finished compost, simply fasten 3 additional pallets around it.

Option 2: All-Purpose Wood Compost Bin

Materials:

- 2 pieces of 4" x 4" x 8' wood
- 9 pieces of 5/4" x 6" x 8' wood
- 1 pair hinges
- 1 screen door latch or barrel bolt
- Corrosion resistant deck screws

Tools:

- Tape measure and pencil
- Square
- Safety glasses and ear plugs
- Level
- Circular saw
- Drill/driver
- Drill and screwdriver bits
- Post hole digger

Instructions:

1. Cut the wood to size:
 - Corner Posts: 2 – 3½" x 3½" x 42"
 - Top Boards: 4 – 1" x 5½" x 38"
 - Top Cleats: 2 – 1" x 2" x 22"
 - Side Boards: 10 – 1" x 5½" x 36"
 - End Boards: 10 – 1" x 5½" x 24"
 - Door Cleats: 2 – 1" x 2" x 17½"
2. Attach a side board flush with the end and edges of two of the posts using screws. Check to see that the board is square with the posts.
3. Position each of the other four side boards, using 5/8" spacer blocks, and attach them to the posts with screws. Repeat this process to assemble the other side.
4. Dig four holes with a post hole digger for the corner posts.
5. Set the side units in the holes so the outside of the boards are 2' apart at each end. Check to be sure the sides are level and plumb, then loosely fill the holes with dirt.
6. Screw the top end boards to the posts, positioning them flush with the top of the post and aligned with the outside of the sides. Use the spacer blocks to position the remaining boards on the back end of the compost bin, and attach them with screws.
7. Rip the cleats from a piece of leftover 5/4" lumber and screw three of the end boards together to form the door. Use the spacer blocks to position the boards the correct distance apart.
8. Attach the hinges to the door and mount the door on the end board of the compost bin. Attach the bottom end board below the door using a screen door latch or barrel bolt to hold it closed. Pack down the dirt in the holes.
9. Assemble the top of the bin by screwing the top boards to cleats so that the outside boards are spaced 24" apart with an even gap between each of the other boards.

