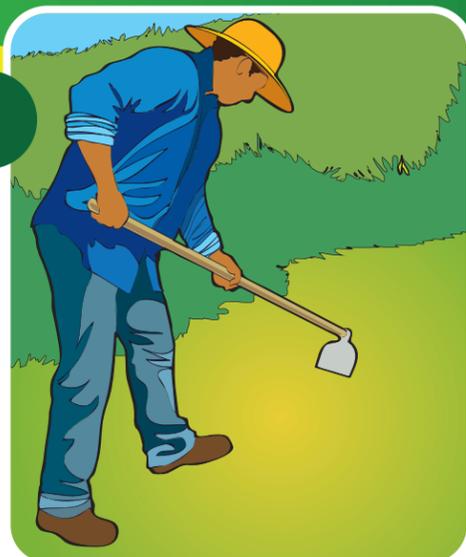


Build a Compost Bin in 3 easy steps

Materials you need:

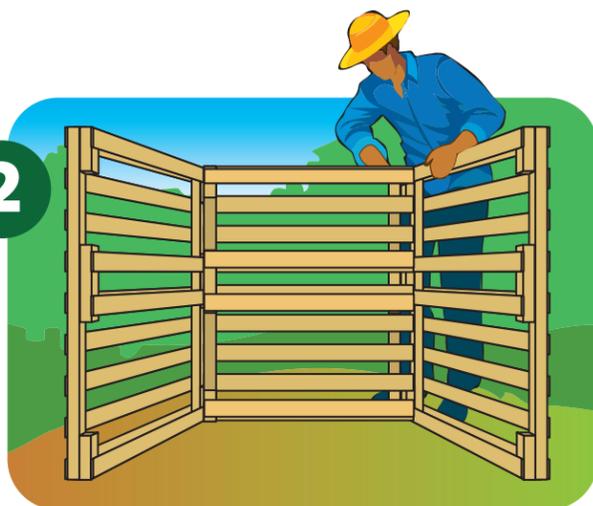
- Four wooden shipping pallets
- 32 wood screws
- Strong wire
- 4 bolt latches

1



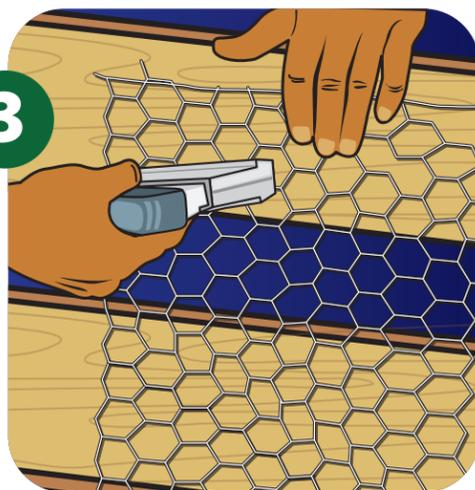
Clear the area where you are going to put the compost bin

2

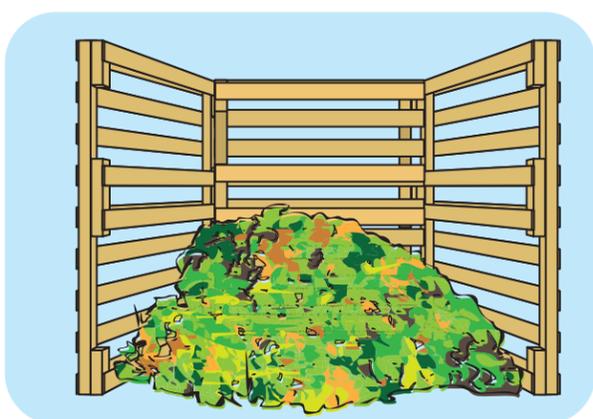


Screw three of the pallets together. Attach bolt latches to the front edge and last pallet to make a removable door

3



To keep structure stable and to keep out rodents, wire the pallet together.



Start filling your bin with garden and kitchen waste.



a beginner's guide to COMPOSTING

Benefits of Compost

Compost has some amazing properties. Through its ability to improve the properties of soil physically, chemically, and biologically, its uses can be versatile:

- Compost can enhance the physical structure of soil, reducing bulk density and porosity and increase its gas and water permeability, thus making it ideal for plantings and for reducing erosion and preventing runoff.
- Compost can provide drought resistance.
- Compost can modify soil's pH.
- Compost can help soil retain nutrients as well as provide additional nutrients and soil biota.
- Compost can suppress plant disease.
- Compost can bind contaminants such as heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and pesticides, thus reducing their leachability into waterways and absorption by plant matter.



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COMPOSTING

a beginner's guide to



Step 1

Location of your Compost Bin

Choose a site that is level and well drained and easily accessible year round. Place the bin over bare soil rather than concrete or paving to ensure that worms and other beneficial organisms can make their way into the pile. It's a good idea to remove any grass or plants and turn the soil to a depth of about 6 - 8 inches.



Step 2 Add Good Composting Materials

Generally, composting ingredients can be divided into two categories: **Brown Materials** such as leaves, hay, straw and paper and **Green Materials** such as grass clippings, fresh manure, vegetable trimmings and most green plant cuttings.

Greens

vegetable peelings, fruit peelings
grass clippings, coffee grounds
fresh manure, green plant cuttings
annual weeds, young hedge
trimmings

Brown

leaves, straw & hay, paper
cardboard, woody prunings
sawdust, eggshells

"Don't" Add meat & bones poultry & fish fatty food waste whole eggs dairy products human & pet faeces pernicious weeds treated wood!

Step 3 What Not To Add to Your Compost!

There are a number of materials that you should keep out of your compost pile. Adding some items, like vegetable fats and dairy products will simply slow down the composting process by excluding the oxygen that helpful organisms need to do their job. If you add these materials you will still have usable compost, it will just take much longer.

Adding other materials to your pile is simply dangerous because of the chance of poisoning or disease. Human and pet faeces, chemically or pressure treated wood or sawdust, and meat and animal fats fall into this category and should never be added to your compost pile.

Step 4 Making Great Compost

Start with a 4 inch layer of brush, twigs, hay or straw at the bottom of the bin. Then add a 4 inch layer of brown material, then a thin layer of finished compost or good garden soil. That's one layer. Then add a 4 inch layer of green material topped with a thin layer of compost or soil.

Moisten each layer by misting it lightly with a garden hose. Keep adding materials in alternating layers of greens and browns until the bin is full. Once you have a full bin you can turn the pile every

Compost is ready when dark and crumbly and mostly broken down with a pleasant, earthy, soil-like smell to it. For most uses it is acceptable to have some recognizable pieces of leaves or straw remaining.



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