

Basic compost bin construction

Wood and wire compost bin

Use this bin for basic "Add as You Go" or "Batch" composting. The bin has two front doors for easy harvesting and turning, a top that doubles as a sifter, and a full wire mesh lining. Small to large amounts of compost can be produced. Carpentry skills are needed for construction. Budget \$150 to \$200 for new materials, or better yet, use salvaged materials.

MATERIALS

- 1 x 6" wood: 8' (8)
- 2 x 4" wood: 8' (2)
- 2 x 4" wood: 10' (1)
- 1 x 4" wood: 6' (3)
- 1/4" wire mesh hardware cloth: 15' x 3'
- 5" drawer handles (4)
- 1 1/2" hooks and eyes (8)
- 4" corner brackets with 1/2" wood screws (8)
- Solvent-free, low VOC, waterproof wood glue
- 8 penny galvanized nails (20+)
- 6 penny galvanized nails or screws (125+)
- 3/4" poultry wire staples (250+)

TOOLS

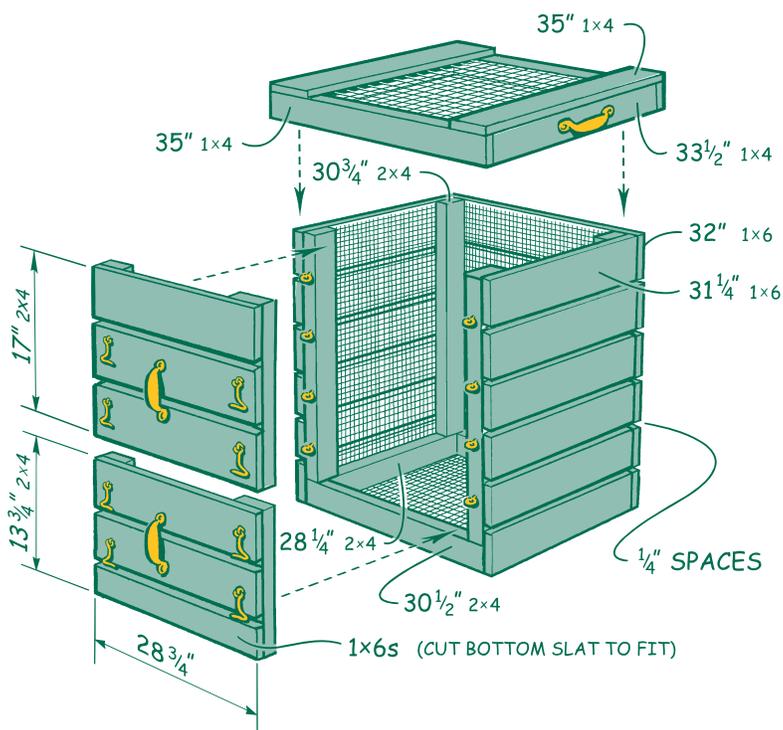
Power saw or handsaw, screwdriver, hammer, measuring tape, pencil, square, drill with 1/16" bit, sandpaper.

Use proper eye, ear and body protection.

ASSEMBLY

Glue all wood pieces before nailing.

1. Nail 2 x 4 bottom frame together with the larger nails. Be sure the finish dimension is 30 1/2 x 31 1/4".
2. Build sides by nailing bottom and top 31 1/4" 1 x 6s to the 2 x 4s (use smaller nails). Be sure bottom 1 x 6s hang down 3 1/2" below 2 x 4 uprights. Fill in the remaining 1 x 6s equally spaced, with no gaps larger than 1/4".
3. Attach sides to base by nailing 3 1/2" overhang to base as drawn (with smaller nails). Nail 2 x 4 uprights into bottom frame with larger nails.
4. Nail the six 32" 1 x 6s to back by first attaching the top and bottom pieces, then filling in the remaining four, spaced equally.
5. Before cutting pieces for the front doors, measure the actual opening at the front of the bin, and make sure to cut the 1 x 6s just 1/8 to 1/4" smaller than the opening. Build top door by nailing three 1 x 6s to the two 17" 2 x 4s with 1/4" between each board as shown. Build bottom door by first nailing on the top two 1 x 6s (1/4" apart), then measuring the remaining space, and cutting the last 1 x 6 lengthwise to fit.
6. Attach eyes to front 2 x 4 uprights, and hooks to front doors as drawn.
7. Build lid by pre-drilling and tacking together as drawn using smaller nails. Make sure the finished outside dimension is 35 x 35" and is square. Then pre-drill and screw the corner brackets to the inside corners, and the top 1 x 4s into place. Cut a 33 x 36" piece of wire screen and staple it to the inside of the lid.
8. Cut remaining screen to fit. Staple side, back and door pieces inside bin on 1 x 6s (not over 2 x 4s). Staple bottom piece onto the underside of bin.



METRO

Printed on recycled content paper.
30 percent post consumer waste .07356