

# Backyard Composting Options

## Do-It-Yourself Bins

TYPE	PROS & CONS	SUGGESTIONS & PRECAUTIONS
<b>Bricks</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Long-lasting, neat appearance, inexpensive if reusing material, can add material during process.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Time consuming to build, expensive if using new material, cannot be moved.</p>	Layer bricks to leave spaces for aeration.
<b>Cinder Blocks</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Long-lasting, holes provide aeration without having to turn material as often, inexpensive for reused or new material, can add material during process.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Cannot be moved.</p>	Mortar may not be required if stacked evenly. You should need 20 or less standard cinder blocks for a bin 3 feet square.
<b>Wire</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Simple to build, inexpensive for reused or new material, can add material during the process.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Temperature may not stay as hot.</p>	Cut an opening in the wire towards the bottom to remove finished compost.
<b>Wooden or Pallets</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Inexpensive if reusing material.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Will have to be replaced eventually due to decomposition of the wood.</p>	Untreated wood is preferred. Check with local stores to see if they will donate used pallets. Using chicken wire in combination with the wood will help hold materials in the bin.
<b>Three Sections</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Reduces decomposition time from months to weeks, provides storage for finished compost, can produce higher volume of material at varied intervals, can add material during process.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Time consuming to build, more manual labor to turn material.</p>	Fill the first bin with material. When it's full, turn the contents into the second bin. Begin filling the first bin again while continuing the process of moving the material from the second to the third bin. When the material in the third bin is ready, remove the finished compost and begin the process again.



**Brick Bin**



**Cinder Block Bin**



**Wire Bin**



**Wooden Bin**

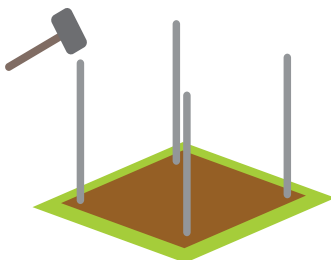


**Three-Section Bin**

## DIY Wire Bin

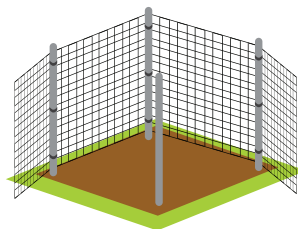
### SHOPPING LIST

- 4-ft. metal poles (4)
- zip ties (12+)
- chicken wire (12+ ft.)
- metal clips (3+)



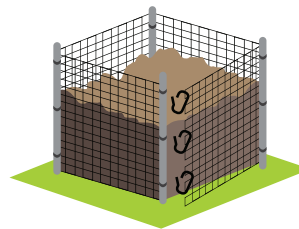
#### STEP 1:

Use a hammer to drive metal posts or rebar into the ground. Space the posts about 3 feet apart.



#### STEP 2:

Use about 12 feet of chicken wire to wrap around the outside of the posts. Attach wire to posts with zip ties.



#### STEP 3:

Leave one end detached so the bin can be opened to turn the pile. Use metal clips to close the open end.

# Bins to Buy

TYPE	PROS & CONS
<b>Circular Bins</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Lightweight, adjustable, can add material during process.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Minimal barrier to pets/pests.</p>
<b>Enclosed Bins</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Neat appearance, low cost, low maintenance, good barrier to pets/pests.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Slower decomposition time, cannot add material once full, limited space for material.</p>
<b>Rolling Bins or Barrels</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Can be moved for loading and emptying or for out-of-sight storage, low maintenance, less manual labor, faster decomposition time, good barrier to pets/pests.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Fully loaded drums can be heavy and difficult to roll, less capacity for material.</p>
<b>Tumblers</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Simple loading and emptying, low maintenance, less manual labor, good barrier to pets/pests.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Fully loaded drums can be heavy and difficult to turn, less capacity for material.</p>



**Circular Bin**



**Enclosed Bin**



**Tumblers**



**Pit Composting**

# Open Composting

TYPE	PROS & CONS	SUGGESTIONS & PRECAUTIONS
<b>Piles</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Minimal labor, can add material during process, low maintenance.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Slower decomposition, no barrier to pets/pests.</p>	When adding material, mix well and cover with browns.
<b>Pits or Trenches</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> Minimal labor, no browns required, low maintenance.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Slower decomposition, new holes/trenches required for new material.</p>	Fully cover greens and bury where pets will not dig.
<b>Sheet Mulching or Lasagna Gardening</b>	<p><b>Pros:</b> No moving compost to garden, low maintenance.</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Wait time for planting, no barrier to pets/pests.</p>	Overlap cardboard or wet newspaper for the weed barrier and plant directly into the top layers.

## Collecting Your Household Food Waste

A container with a lid is a great way to store food waste in the kitchen until you are ready to take it outside. To avoid odors and flies, empty the container at least every two days, sprinkle sawdust on top of food layers or store your food waste in the freezer.

