

DO IT YOURSELF COMPOST BIN

Supplies for this project can be found at most home-improvement stores or around the house.

MATERIALS:

Trash can with lid
Paddle/spade drill bit
Power drill

1 PREP BIN

Whether it's newly bought or you're reusing an existing trash can, make sure it has a lid and is free of any labels or debris before drilling any holes.

2 DRILL HOLES

Depending on the size of your trash can, go with a paddle/spade drill bit that will be big enough for ample airflow for the compost. Start drilling a hole into the side of the can a few inches from the lid. Space the following holes about 3 inches apart until you have holes that span the width and length of the can on all sides.

3 CLEAN BIN

Once you have drilled all the necessary holes, be sure to clean out any plastic debris created by drilling before you begin using your bin.

4 USE YOUR BIN

After you are done drilling your bin, it is ready for use. If you are using it to just collect your compostable materials to be collected or taken elsewhere, then you are all set. If you are composting from home, please see the helpful tips on the right to get you going.*

HOME COMPOSTING TIPS

CREATE A MIX—The best mix for compost is a 2:1 ratio of browns to greens. Add 2 parts brown materials, such as dry leaves and wood chips, to 1 part green materials, such as food scraps and lawn clippings.

CHOP IT SMALL—The smaller the pieces, the faster they will compost. Consider chopping your compost materials before adding or while in the bin.

ADD AIR & WATER—Compost functions best when it is balanced with damp materials and plenty of air. Depending on where you live, you may need to turn your compost or add water to it occasionally to maintain that balance.

HAVE PATIENCE—Composting takes time, but you'll know your compost is done when it has cooled, turned a rich brown color and is in small soil-like pieces.

*Composting rules can differ from place to place, so be sure to check local rules and ordinances before you get started.