DO-IT-YOURSELF COMPOST BINS

	Pallet Compost Bin	Wire Mesh Compost Bin
Advantages	• Free to inexpensive to build • Easy to build • Pallets are already the perfect size • Capacity can be increased or decreased by adding or removing a section (see picture 1)	• Inexpensive to build • Easy to build • Easy to move • Capacity can be increased or decreased by changing the length of fencing used or amount of overlap
Disadvantages	• Pallets can be heavy • Wooden pallets may rot over time • Not pest proof	• Wire may rust over time • Not pest proof
Materials Needed	• Four (4) wooden pallets (or more if you would like more capacity or sections) • Rope or easily bent wire to tie pallets together • Scissors or wire snips	• Heavy duty mesh fencing or hardware cloth with 0.635 cm to 5.08 cm mesh, 1.22 m tall x 3.05 m long (0.25" - 2" mesh, 4' tall x 10' long) • Rope or easily bent wire to tie the ends of the wire together • Scissors or wire snips
How to Make It	• Select the location for the bin and level the ground where the bin will be • Set up pallets in a square shape • Tie pallets securely together	• Select the location for the bin and level the ground where the bin will be • Draw the ends together and tie them to create a round shape, overlap the ends by 12.7 cm (5") (see picture 4)
Extra notes	• Corners can be tied to T-bar fence posts or stakes that have been pounded into the ground to increase stability (see picture 1) • Pallets can be lined with a fine mesh or cardboard to help hold contents in and discourage pests • One pallet can be hinged to create a door, or removed completely to allow free access to one side (see picture 2)	• Snow fence or softer mesh such as chicken wire can also be used by securing it to T-bar fence posts or stakes that have been pounded into the ground (see picture 3) • Double ended snaps can replace rope or flexible wire, the snaps are easier to undo and reposition 

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	Rolling Compost Bin
Advantages	• Free to inexpensive to build • Easy to build • Garbage bins or drums are available in a variety of sizes and usually include lids • Retain more moisture than open compost piles • Slightly more pest proof than other composter styles
Disadvantages	• Compost material is not in contact with ground • Bins are exposed to cold air on all sides, so decomposition will slow dramatically or stop in cold weather • May not be pest proof • Metal bins may rust over time
Materials Needed	• One (1) metal or plastic garbage bin or barrel with a lid • Drill, drill bits with a 1.27 cm to 2.54 cm (1/2" to 1") diameter, and a power source • A method to secure the lid such as hooks, snaps, or bungee cords • A friend to hold the bin still while you drill holes
How to Make It	• Have a friend hold the bin securely so it doesn't roll while you drill, keep loose clothing, hair and hands away from the running drill. • Drill holes in the bin and the lid to allow air flow (see picture 6) • Secure the lid to the bin with hooks, snaps, or bungee cords—some lids may twist or lock on, if this is the case this step can be skipped
Extra notes	• Frequent turning will hasten decomposition, this is accomplished by tipping the bin on its side and rolling it 2-3 times per week • Instead of tipping and rolling the bin around the yard, a base with rollers can be built (see picture 5) which accomplishes the same thing but it is done in place. Rotating bins can also be purchased from retail stores.

1) Pallet Compost Bin with second bin

2) Pallet compost bin with a door

3) Chicken wire and T-post bin

4) Wire Mesh Bin

5) Rolling Compost Bin on a base

6) Rolling Compost Bin with ample air holes and without a base