

DIY Compost Bin

HOW TO MAKE A D.I.Y COMPOST BIN

Here are the step-by-step instructions to follow.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Container
- Knife to cut hole in lid and cut slits into container (drill could also be used for holes)
- Chicken Wire
- Duct tape

STEP 1: PICK YOUR COMPOST BIN

First, find the container that you want. A Rubbermaid container would be perfect.

You'll find that it's not so strange to make a DIY Rubbermaid compost bin! Make sure it's, at least, 24 inches tall or taller, and it does need to have the lid as well. A lid is necessary to keep the dirt moist and all of the critters out of the bin.



STEP 2: POKE HOLES IN YOUR COMPOST BIN

Once you have your container, poke holes in the bottom and sides of the container. You can just cut some slits into the plastic with a sharp knife, or a drill would do the job as well.

Adding holes to the bottom of the bin is necessary for two purposes.

- You need aeration (air movement) throughout your compost. You really don't want to trap all of those scents into the bin.
- The holes let water drip out of the bin.

STEP 3: FIX THE LID



Next, cut a rectangle out of the lid. This provides plenty of airflow and lets you add water to the bin without needing to take off the lid. Plus, it keeps animals out of it.

Cut the chicken wire to be a bit larger than the rectangle you cut. Using duct tape, secure it to the lid.

STEP 4: TOSS IN DIRT AND CREATE A BASE

Now, you're ready to start composting. Add dirt, fruit and veggie scraps, some dried leaves from your yard, and more.



STEP 5: TOSS IN YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

Now it's time to start composting kitchen waste. So many items that you have and use in your daily life are compost safe. Worried that you'll put something unsafe into your compost bin? Make a composting list!

HERE ARE SOME GREEN AND BROWN MATERIALS FOR COMPOSTING.

- Eggshells
- Coffee Grounds
- Tea Leaves
- Fruit Scraps
- Veggie Scraps
- Newspaper
- Napkins
- Lint
- Old Wine
- Leaves
- Grass Clippings
- Twigs
- Shredded Brown Paper Bags
- Corn Stalks
- Coffee Filters
- Straw
- Peat Moss

STEP 6: TURN AND MOISTEN

The last step is to moisten the materials and turn it with a shovel. It's not a good idea to add TOO much water. If you add too much water, you can end up with a stinky compost bin. Turning with a shovel is just as easy as it sounds. Use a shovel and turn the dirt around. You need to do this each time you add something to your bin.

PICKING THE RIGHT AREA FOR YOUR COMPOST BIN

You want to pick a dry, shady spot in your yard for the best composting performance. At the same time, the location should be convenient for you, making it most likely that you'll give your compost the care it needs. You don't want to have to walk 1/4 mile to add to your compost bin. Place your compost bin near a water source, making it easier to add moisture when needed. You don't want it in full sun, or your compost will dry out too quickly. Composts, when done correctly, won't stink, so you can keep it near your patio if needed. Ideally, your compost also will be in an area that is close to your garden.

START COLLECTING COMPOST MATERIALS

Now, you're ready to start composting. It takes 3-4 months for your compost to turn into a finished product. You'll want to add more of your kitchen waste and other items to the bin. You could keep a compost bucket on your countertop or under your sink. You won't want to run out to the bin each time you use eggs or have veggie scraps.