

## 2-Compartment Compost Bin for Backyards/Schoolyards



### Features:

- 2 compartments, about 3' H x 3'W x 3 'L each. Having two compartments allows you to actively add new material to one compartment while material in the other compartment can fully finish decomposing and be easy to harvest.
- One lid over both compartments
- 5 sides (including bottom) covered in ¼" metal hardware cloth
- Removable wood slat on front side make it easy to access the finished compost

### Shopping list (consider using salvaged wood and parts)

- (11) 6' lengths of 2"x4"s for frame
  - (5) 6' lengths of 2"x2"s for lid and for holding wood slats
  - (9) carriage bolts for frame
  - (6)? 6' lengths of 1"x6"s for wood slats
  - (3) 3' lengths of 2"x6" for holding wood slats in place
  - (4) flat corner braces for lid (or 8 if you want them on the top and bottom of the lid)
  - (2) flat T braces for lid (or 4 if you want them on the top and bottom of the lid)
  - (1) ¼-inch x 3' x 25' roll of hardware cloth
  - (3) door hinges and screws (two hinges for lid; one hinge for lid stop- that small somewhat triangular piece of wood supporting the lid)
  - (2) handles for lid (not shown in photo)
- Box of "poultry net" staples (for attaching hardware cloth)  
Wood screws

Tools needed: power drill, metal-trimming shears, power saw, hammer, large square

Cut wood needed:

2"x4"s

- (4) 6' (three for the main bin: front bottom, back bottom, and back top; and one for back edge of lid)
- (6) 36" (for the top and bottom parts horizontal parts of the 3 sidewalls: left wall, middle wall, and right wall)
- (6) 31.5" (for making the vertical parts of the 3 sidewalls)
- (3) 29" (for underneath each of the sidewalls, on the bottom of the bin) – double check the exact length needed during construction before cutting these parts

2"x2"s

- (1) 6' (for front edge of lid)
- (3) 29" (for left edge, middle, and right edge of lid) – double check the exact length during construction before cutting these parts
- (4) about 35" (for holding wood slats in place from inside the bin)

2"x6"s

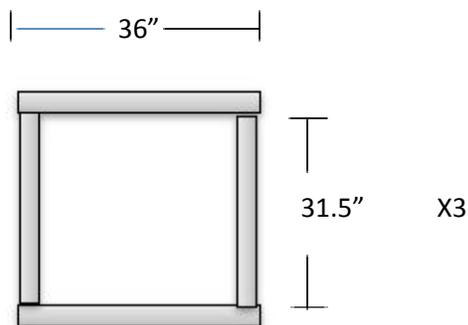
- (3) 36" (for holding the horizontal wood slats in place for the front of the bin)

1"x6"s

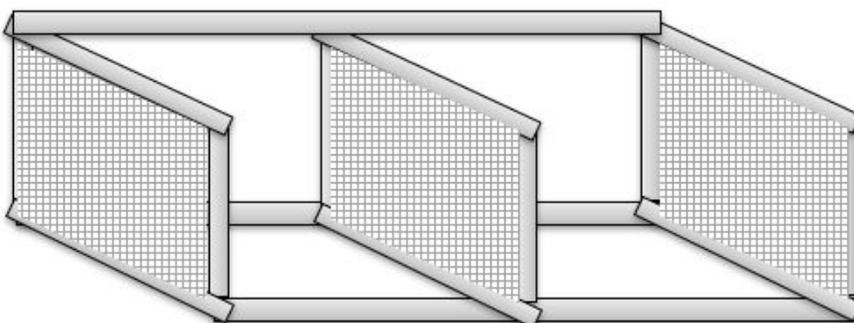
About 12 cut to fit (roughly 61.5" – 62" long wood slats) to form the front walls of the bin

Instructions:

1. Build the 3 sidewalls (left wall, middle wall, right wall) using 2x4s and wood screws to connect the parts. **Predrill all holes for screws throughout construction.**



2. Attach hardware cloth to just these 3 sidewalls now, before constructing the rest of the frame. Use metal-trimming shears to cut the hardware cloth to size. Spread the hardware cloth in place and hammer poultry staples all around the edges.
3. Attach 2 of the 6' 2x4s to the 3 sidewalls to form the base of the bin, using carriage bolts. Be sure to rest all 3 sidewalls on top of the two 6' bottom parts. (Note: The diagram below shows only the approximate location of these 6' parts, not the exact way they need to be attached.)



4. Next, attach the (3) 29" parts that will fit under each of the 3 sidewalls. To do so, flip the bin upside down. Be sure to measure the exact length that the parts need to be in order to fit (the parts may need to be longer or shorter than the anticipated 29").
5. While the bin is upside-down, attach hardware cloth to (what will be) the bottom of the bin.
6. Flip the bin so that the backside is facing up. Attach hardware cloth to (what will be) the back of the bin.
7. Build the lid by screwing the parts together, then attaching the flat braces to give the lid further integrity. The last 6' 2x4 will be the back edge of the lid, the 6' 2x2 will be the front edge of the lid, and the (3) 29" 2x2s will be the left edge, middle, and right edge of the lid. Double check the exact length of the 29" parts during construction; make sure the lid fits nicely on the top of the bin before cutting these parts. Set the lid aside for now.
8. Attach the (3) 36" 2"x6" parts to the front edges of the bin (to the front edge of each of the 3 sidewalls) so that the top of the part is flush to the top of the sidewall.
9. Measure the distance between the right sidewall and middle sidewall. Then cut about (6) 2"x6" boards to make the wood slats for the front of the right compartment; be sure to cut them a little short so that the slats can slide easily up and down. Do the same for the left compartment.
10. To attach the backstops for these slats, flip the bin front-side down. Lay the slats in place. Then attach the (4) 35" 2x2s to the inner part of the sidewalls leaving enough space to allow the wood slats to move easily. Then flip the bin right-side up.
11. Place the lid on top of the bin. Attach the lid with the 2 hinges. Attach hardware cloth to the top of the lid.
12. Attach the 2 handles to the front edge of the lid.
13. Use a scrap piece of 2x4 to make a stop for the lid (see photo below; top left of bin). Cut the top edge of the piece at an angle. Attach the stop to sidewall using a hinge.
14. Happy composting!

