

Compost Bin Creation

What is My Challenge?

Students will build a compost bin and understand what can and cannot go into the compost.

What Will I Need?

Materials -

- Large plastic bin with lid
- Drill (for holes in the bottom)
- Shredded newspaper
- Soil (dirt from outside)
- Dried leaves and/or pine needles
- Food scraps (research what to compost)
- Water

How Should I Do It?

1. Ask an adult to drill 8-10 holes about 1-2 inches apart in the bottom of the bin, and four holes on each side of the bin. *This will let air move around the bin.
2. Add shredded newspaper into the bin $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way up.
3. Add soil to the bin - to the $\frac{1}{2}$ way point in the bin.
4. Mix in food scraps into the soil.
5. Spray the compost with just enough water to dampen the soil.
6. As you add more scraps of food into the bin, match the amount with the same amount of leaves and soil.
7. Place in a spot where it can get some sun.
8. Every 4 days, roll the bin or stir the contents to mix it up. Remember to keep the compost damp. If you want, add some worms to help make it break down faster.
9. Use the compost in your garden in a month or two.

About How Long Will It Take Me?

About an hour, compost should be ready in about a month.

Mix It Up!

If you do not have a large bin, try to do a smaller version in a 2-liter soda bottle or any clear plastic container.

You Be the Judge!

Use it in your garden and see if things grow!

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EPIC books about composting can be found here. You must log into EPIC first and leave the tab open, then cut and paste this collection.

<https://www.getepic.com/app/user-collection/9018744>