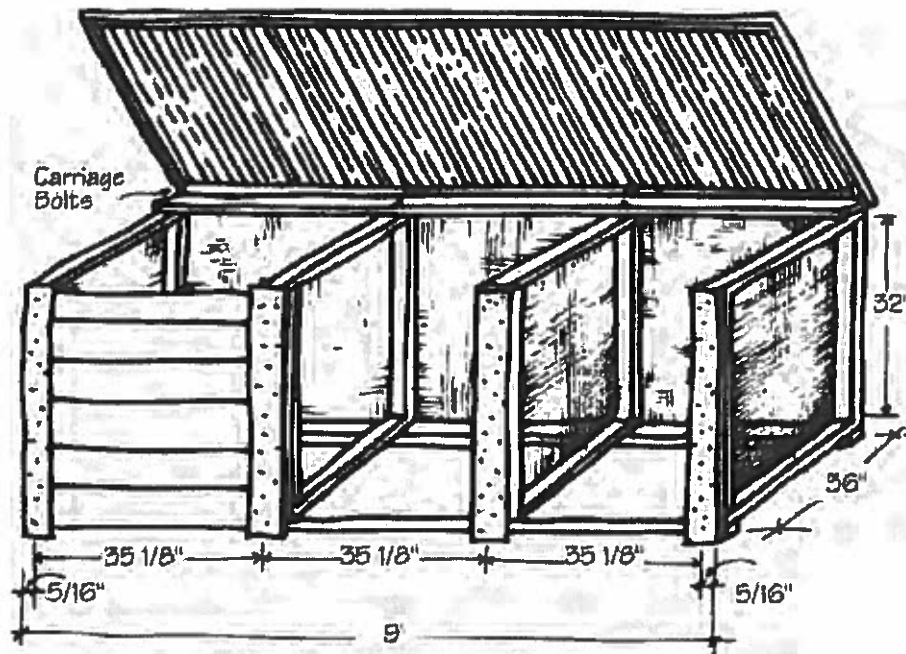


BUILD A 3-BIN COMPOST SYSTEM

These are instructions for one type of 3-bin composting system. There are many different ways to build a wooden multi-bin system. We encourage you to ask your instructors which plans or bin types they like best.



MATERIALS

- 8 – 12' cedar 2x4s
- 3 – 8' cedar 2x2s
- 1 – 12' cedar 2x6
- 5 – 12' cedar 1x6s
- 31' of 36" wide 1/2" hardware cloth
- 12 – 1/2" carriage bolts, 4" long
- 12 washers and 12 nuts for bolts
- 2 lbs of 3 1/2" galvanized screws
- 200 poultry wire staples

Note: Cedar, fir, hemlock or other naturally rot-resistant lumber will last longer than less expensive options.

Avoid pressure-treated lumber.

TOOLS

- Handsaw or circular power saw
- Drill/driver with 1/2" and 1/8" bits
- Hammer
- Tin snips
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- 3/4" socket or open ended wrench
- Carpenter's square or T-square
- Safety glasses, ear protection, and dust mask

CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONS

Build dividers & end sections (Use 2x4s)

- From the 2x4s, cut eight 32" pieces for the vertical uprights.
- From the 2x4s, cut eight 36" pieces for the horizontal connectors.
- Butt 2 vertical uprights between 2 horizontal connectors to form a frame. Mark and pre-drill the holes. Use screws to secure. Check frame for squareness.
- Make a total of four frames.
- Cut four 35" long sections of hardware cloth.
- Clip extra wire off ends.
- Stretch the hardware cloth across each frame. Attach the screen tightly into place with poultry staples hammered in every 4" around the edge (36" width of cloth is attached to 36" horizontal connectors).

Set up dividers & attach bottom baseboards and top support (Use three 2x4s)

- From the 2x4s, cut three 9' lengths to create 2 baseboards and a top support.
- On the side of the boards, mark 36" in from each end.
- On each divider, measure and mark centers on both ends of the 36" pieces (top and bottom horizontal connectors).
- Stand the dividers parallel to one another and 36" apart.
- Place one 9' baseboard on top of the dividers.
- Position the baseboard flush against the outer edges of the end dividers.
- Line up center lines of middle dividers with marks on the baseboard.
- Use a screw to temporarily hold the baseboard to each divider.
- Drill a 1/2" hole through each junction, centered 1" in from the inside edge of baseboard and 1" from inside edge of divider upright.
- Insert carriage bolts from the baseboard side through the divider. Secure with washers and nuts but do not tighten yet.

- Place second 9' baseboard on top of the dividers and repeat process for attaching it.
- Turn the unit right side up and attach 9' top support in the same manner as baseboards (the board will be at the back of the bin).
- Use the carpenter's square or measure between opposite corners to make sure the bin is square.
- Check that the dividers and end sections are at a 90° angle to the top board. Tighten all top support bolts securely.
- Turn bin over and check to make sure bin is square, and dividers and end sections are positioned properly. Tighten all baseboard bolts securely.

Attach hardware cloth

- Using scrap from 2x4s, cut two 28-1/2" pieces to insert in gap between the baseboards along the end sections of bin. (Measure gap before cutting scraps.)
- Insert scraps and screw into place on the bottom of the bin.
- Fasten a 9' long piece of hardware cloth securely to the bottom of the bin with poultry staples every 4" around the frame.
- Attach a 9' long piece of hardware cloth to the back of the bin.

Front & back runners for slats

(use 2x6s and 2x2s)

- From 2x6s, cut four 36" pieces for front runners.
- Center the boards on the front of the dividers, flush with the top edge, and screw in securely.
- From 2x2s, cut six 34" pieces for back runners.
- Attach the back runners on insides of divider. Back runners should be parallel to front runners and set back 1" (the gap will hold the slats).

Slats (use 1x6s)

- From 1x6s, cut eighteen 31" pieces for front slats. (Measure clearance before cutting and test 1st slat before cutting the rest.)