

## Pallet Bin

Used pallets make great bins, as the spaces between planks provide good aeration. Pallet bins can be assembled in a variety of ways—the following is the simplest.

### Procedure

Tie the corners of four similar, damage-free pallets together with baling wire, or a rot-proof rope. If you use detachable loops at one corner, the fourth pallet can be used as a gate when turning the pile. For increased aeration, put a pallet on the ground first, and build around it.

The Habitat Re-Store, on 75 Archibald, is always a good source of used building materials. Avoid treated or painted woods, which may contaminate compost with lead or arsenic!

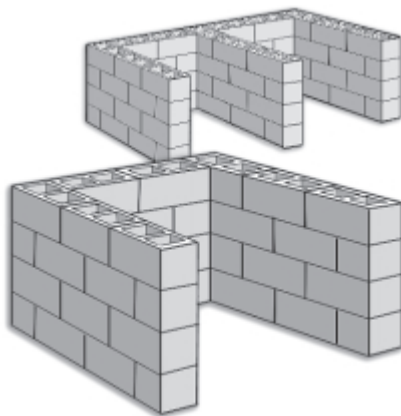


## Chicken-Wire Bin

Wood or plastic snow fencing, or hardware cloth, can also be used to make an inexpensive and easy to set up composter.

### Procedure

Make a circle with wire mesh or fencing and securely tie the ends together (with baling wire). For more strength, place four posts evenly around the perimeter and attach to baling wire laced around the upper edge of mesh circle. To turn the pile, simply dismantle the bin, reassemble it near the heap, and shovel everything back in.



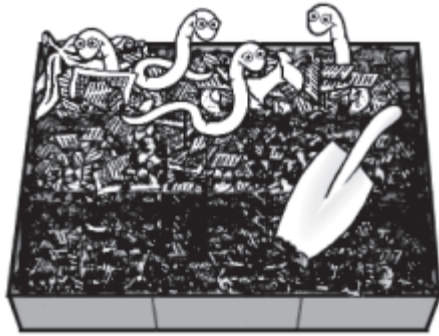
## Cement Block Bin

Cement blocks or bricks can be used to build single, double, or triple bin composters. These can be made quite large, and are suitable for high-volume composting. Double and triple bin systems allow easier and complete turning of the heap - directly into the adjacent bin.

### Procedure

You will need a minimum of 42 cement blocks. Lay the blocks with the holes sideways, or leave space between them for aeration.

**See over for more information**



## Vermicomposting

Indoor composting in a bin with red wiggler worms. Ideal for apartment dwellers! These living garbarators can consume their own weight in food every day. Worm castings—the finished product—are used the same way as compost.

### Procedure

You'll need a small bin, about the size of a recycling blue box, with a tight-fitting lid, drainage holes on the bottom, a catch tray, and air vents on the top and sides. Bury food waste under a ten inch layer of moist bedding such as shredded newspaper. The worms avoid light, enjoy the food you feed them and won't try to escape!



## An "Active" Compost Heap

To contain heat, and help speed the composting process, consider a tight-fitting lid.

### Moisture

The ideal level of moisture in a heap should feel about as wet as a well wrung-out sponge. Just like a garden, compost should never be allowed to dry out. Covering your compost during hard rains or extended wet periods keeps it from getting too wet, and can help prevent leaching—washing away of nutrients.

### Layering Wastes

Equal weights of "greens" and "browns" make for the best compost. Use layers of each, covered by a thin layer of soil. Avoid dumping big piles of one type of material (such as grass clippings) into the bin.



The Compost Action Project is a service of Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM), with thanks to the City of Winnipeg Water and Waste Department and Manitoba Conservation for financial support.

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## Mulching

Similar to what happens on the forest floor, mulching is spreading material on top of the soil, where it slowly decomposes.

### Procedure

Spread composted, semi-composted or uncomposted material on garden paths or around plants. A mixture of leaves and grass makes a great mulch, or you can use a chipper/shredder to produce a blend of leaves and branches. Kitchen waste should be saved for the compost bin.

Mulching builds a fertile soil that controls weeds, retains moisture and heat, and resists erosion.