

# URBAN COMPOSTER



## Supplies:

- Large Rubbermaid or similar plastic container (with lid)
- Drill with 11/32" (or similar size) drill bit

## Directions:

1. Drill several holes 2" apart on each of the 4 the sides of the container, and also along the sides of the lid. The goal is to keep air circulating inside of the container so aerobic bacteria can digest the pile.
2. Clear all plastic shavings that collect in the bin during drilling. Decorate the outside of the container as desired with paint and/or paint markers.
3. Place compost bin in an area where you can access it easily to add daily kitchen scraps and other compostables. For wintertime composting, the bin is best placed in a south or west exposure where it gets plenty of sun (this will more effectively heat the pile).
4. Continually add "greens" to the bin: vegetable discards, egg shells, coffee grounds, fruit cores and peels, and almost anything else that is organic and can be accepted by a garbage disposal. Do not add meat, grease, bones, dog or cat feces to your pile—they will smell and can attract flies and larger critters like raccoons, coyotes or bears. With the "greens," try to add a roughly equal amount of "browns" into the bin, like dried grass and straw, shredded paper and dried leaves.
5. Keep the compost mixture evenly moist as you add layers, but not too wet. Shoot for the consistency of a squeezed-out sponge. You can throw in a few handfuls of topsoil every now and then too, for consistency's sake. Turn the pile about once a week with a shovel, trowel or long fork to evenly expose it to oxygen—this will keep the bacteria "happy," and you'll have finished compost in no time.
6. If you're composting correctly, it should not have an offensive smell. The finished product looks like coffee grounds, and can be mixed into any soil to improve its structure and nutrient content.



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