

# Building a home compost bin from pallets

Built by John Goertzen, Tillamook County Master Recycler

NOTE: The objective was to build a functional composter using repurposed/reused items.

## Necessary Items:

- Five (5) pallets of equal size
- Extra boards to fill spaces as required (2 per side for this bin minimum.)
- 1 1/2" galvanized ring shank nails to nail extra boards and repair pallets.
- hinges (2 for front gate and 2 for roof).
- L brackets (at least 2 per corner)
- Wire mesh (Chicken wire) to protect from rodents.
- Tin or other water proof material for roofing.
- Gate hatch to secure the top half to gate assembly.
- 1 1/4" wood screws (if not found with hardware). For best results, fill all holes in hinges and brackets.
- Handle for swing gate w/screws.

## Tools:

Hand saw, hammer, screwdriver, tape measure and work gloves.

## Instructions:

1. Inspect pallets and repair as needed using a tape measure to square them. Note measure corner to corner in an X pattern to make them the same both ways. **If you skip this step they will not fit together.**

2. Determine the in and outside of pallets. Make sure they fit them together and double check if more repairs are needed.

3. On the outside fill the voids with extra boards. Nail with two or more nails per support board. Trim boards to match the pallet.



4. Fit together with the L brackets (2) at the top and bottom of each corner.

5. In the front cut the pallet to form the swing gate. About 13" from top so the support boards can be cut without trimming the cross boards.

6. Secure front half pallet and hinge the swing gate leaving space between for free movement when closing. Add hatch and handle to gate.



7. Fit "top" pallet to cover the bin and hinge to open. Add support to hold top for adding material, turning and cleaning bin. Safety rope or small chain can be added to keep lid from going too far back which could pull out hinges.



9. Attach chicken wire to bottom to keep animals out. Cover chicken wire with few inches of soil to aid in drainage.

10. Cover lid with waterproof materials (like old roofing) to keep compost pile dry and hold in heat.