



composting

A white plastic garbage can is mounted on a wooden frame, serving as a compost tumbler. The frame is made of four wooden legs and a base, with a horizontal bar across the middle. The garbage can is positioned in the center of the frame. The background is a wooden fence with a clothesline and a tree on the right. The ground is grassy.

**Plastic garbage can  
compost tumbler**

**\$75**

# Custom stackable 5 tier wood bin



**\$350**

A photograph of a 3 Bin System, which is a large, rectangular structure made of stacked wooden pallets. The structure is composed of three vertical sections, each made of five stacked pallets. The pallets are light-colored wood with visible grain and knots. The structure is placed outdoors on a grassy area with trees in the background. The text "3 Bin System" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# **3 Bin System**

**\$500**

# Myths of composting



- **Myth:** Compost creates odors and attracts pests.
- **Myth:** Compost is unsightly.
- **Myth:** Composting is too time-consuming.

# Facts about composting

A green rolling compost bin with a black frame and wheels, positioned outdoors against a brick wall. The bin has a handle on top and a slot on the side for adding material. It is sitting on a paved surface next to a brick wall and some flowers.

- **Fact:** Organic material that is well-covered will not attract insects or animals.
- **Fact:** Attractive, low-cost compost enclosures can be built or purchased..
- **Fact:** A compost bin can be assembled in under an hour. You can turn your compost as often or as seldom as your schedule allows, and adding new material takes only a few minutes.

# Do's and Don'ts of Composting

## DO compost:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Egg and nut shells
- Coffee and tea grounds
- Weeds, leaves and bark
- Grass and plant trimmings
- Wood chips, sawdust and ashes

## *Never compost :*

- Large branches or logs (unless shredded)
- Plastics or synthetic fibers
- Manure from carnivorous (meat eating) animals
- Diseased plants or plants suffering from severe insect attack
- Invasive plants and weeds (e.g., ivy, succulents, **morning glory**)
- Plants **that** have been treated with herbicides
- Charcoal **ashes**
- Bones

# Layering compost

A black plastic compost bin with a lid, sitting on a lawn in a garden setting. The bin has a lid with a handle and a small window. The background shows green plants and a brick wall.

- alternate moist and dry materials
- Moist ingredients are food scraps, tea bags, seaweed, etc.
- Dry materials are straw, leaves and wood ashes.
- If you have wood ashes, sprinkle in thin layers, or they will clump together and be slow to break down.



# Covering the compost bin

- Covering helps retain moisture and heat
- Covering also prevents the compost from being over-watered in the rain.
- The compost should be moist, but not soaked and sodden.
- You can cover the bin with anything you have – examples: wood, plastic sheeting, carpet scraps.



# Benefits



- Soil conditioner. With compost, you are creating rich humus for lawn and garden. This adds nutrients to your plants and helps retain moisture in the soil.
- Recycles kitchen and yard waste. Composting can divert as much as 30% of household waste away from the garbage can.
- Introduces beneficial organisms to the soil. Microscopic organisms in compost help aerate the soil, break down organic material for plant use and ward off plant disease.
- Good for the environment. Composting offers a natural alternative to chemical fertilizers.
- Reduces landfill waste. Most landfills in North America are quickly filling up; many have already closed down. One-third of landfill waste is made up of compostable materials.

# 5 interesting things about composting

1. If you are composting sawdust, be sure of the origin of the sawdust. Sawdust from chemically-treated wood products can be harmful to compost.
2. Used cotton balls and cotton swabs can be composted. Just make sure they are 100% cotton.
3. When a flower bouquet has seen better days, it can still be put to good use by composting it.
4. After Halloween, there is usually an abundance of jack-o-lanterns on the curb for trash pick-up when instead you can compost them.
5. Bread. Stale dry bread is acceptable in your compost, but if coated with any type of fat or spread, it will attract pests, so put sandwiches in the garbage.

# Sites used to get information

- [http://www.eartheasy.com/grow\\_compost.html](http://www.eartheasy.com/grow_compost.html)
- <http://www.longbeach-recycles.org/home/recycling/composting.htm>
- <http://www.greendivamom.com/2009/01/12/1-unusual-things-you-can-compost>
- <http://webecoist.com/2009/04/16/22-things-you-didnt-know-you-could-compost>
- <http://www.perc.ca/PEN/1995-06/king.html>