



Backyard Composting: *Garbage Can Composter*

A garbage can composter is inexpensive and easy to build. It can be used for food or garden wastes. You do, however, need to turn the wastes.

What You Need

Materials

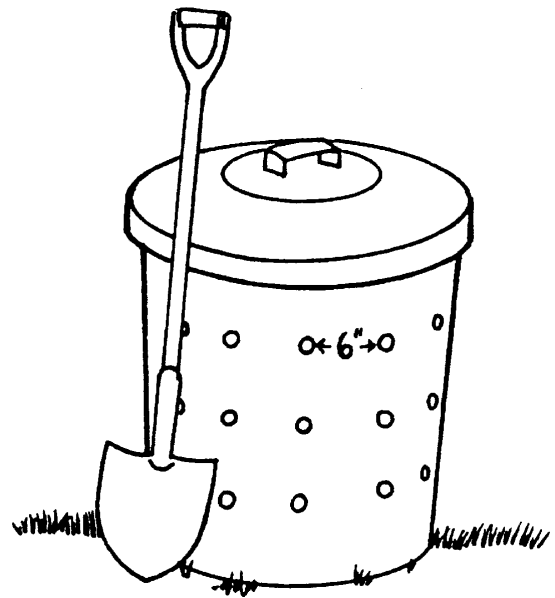
- garbage can with cover
- coarse sawdust, straw or wood chips

Tools

- drill
- pitchfork, shovel or compost turner
- work gloves

Building a Garbage Can Composter

1. Drill three rows of holes 4 to 6 inches apart around the sides of the garbage can. Then drill several holes in the base of the can. The holes allow air movement and drainage of excess moisture.
2. Place 2 to 3 inches of dry sawdust, straw or wood chips in the bottom of the can to absorb excess moisture and let the composting material drain.



Adding Wastes

Add fruit, vegetable waste, garden waste, grass clippings or other bulking material. Make sure not to add too much of any one waste at a time.

Maintaining Your Compost

Regularly mix or turn the composting material with a pitchfork, shovel or compost turner and keep it covered. Turning adds air and mixes the waste materials, preventing odors from the composting material. Odors from the compost pile may attract animals and cause neighbors to complain.

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Pub. 2610-B (2M) 11/95

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Adapted from Cornell Cooperative Extension GPAAE90712