



Backyard Composting: *Cinder Block Bin*

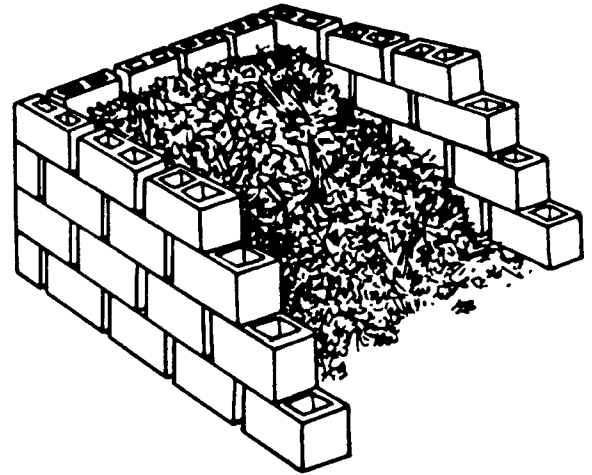
A cinder block bin is sturdy, durable and easily accessible. If you have to buy the cinder blocks, it is slightly more expensive to build than the wire mesh bin.

What You Need

- about 46 cinder blocks for the first bin
- optional: about 32 blocks for a second bin
- work gloves

Building a Cinder Block Bin

1. Place five cinder blocks in a row along the ground at your composting site, leaving about 1 inch between each block to let air in.
2. Place four cinder blocks in another row along the ground perpendicular to and at one end of the first row, forming a square corner; leave about 1 inch between each block.
3. In the same way, place four cinder blocks at the opposite end of the first row to form a three-sided enclosure.
4. Add a second layer of blocks, staggering them to increase stability and leaving about inch between each block. There should be a layer of four cinder blocks on each of the three walls of the enclosure.
5. Add a third layer of blocks, again staggering them to increase stability, with five blocks across the back of the enclosure and three on each side.
6. The last and top layer should have four blocks across the back and three on each side.



7. Optional: If you wish to decrease your composting time, build a second bin next to the first so the wastes in one can mature while you add wastes to the other. Use one side wall of the first bin so you need to build only two additional walls.

Adding Wastes

Add wastes as they become available. Non-wood materials such as grass clippings and garden weeds work best. You can speed the process by chopping or shredding the wastes. If you have two units, when the first unit is full let the compost mature and add wastes to the second unit.

Maintaining Your Compost

Although you don't need to turn this pile, make sure it is moist during dry spells. Compost should be ready in about a year or more.

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