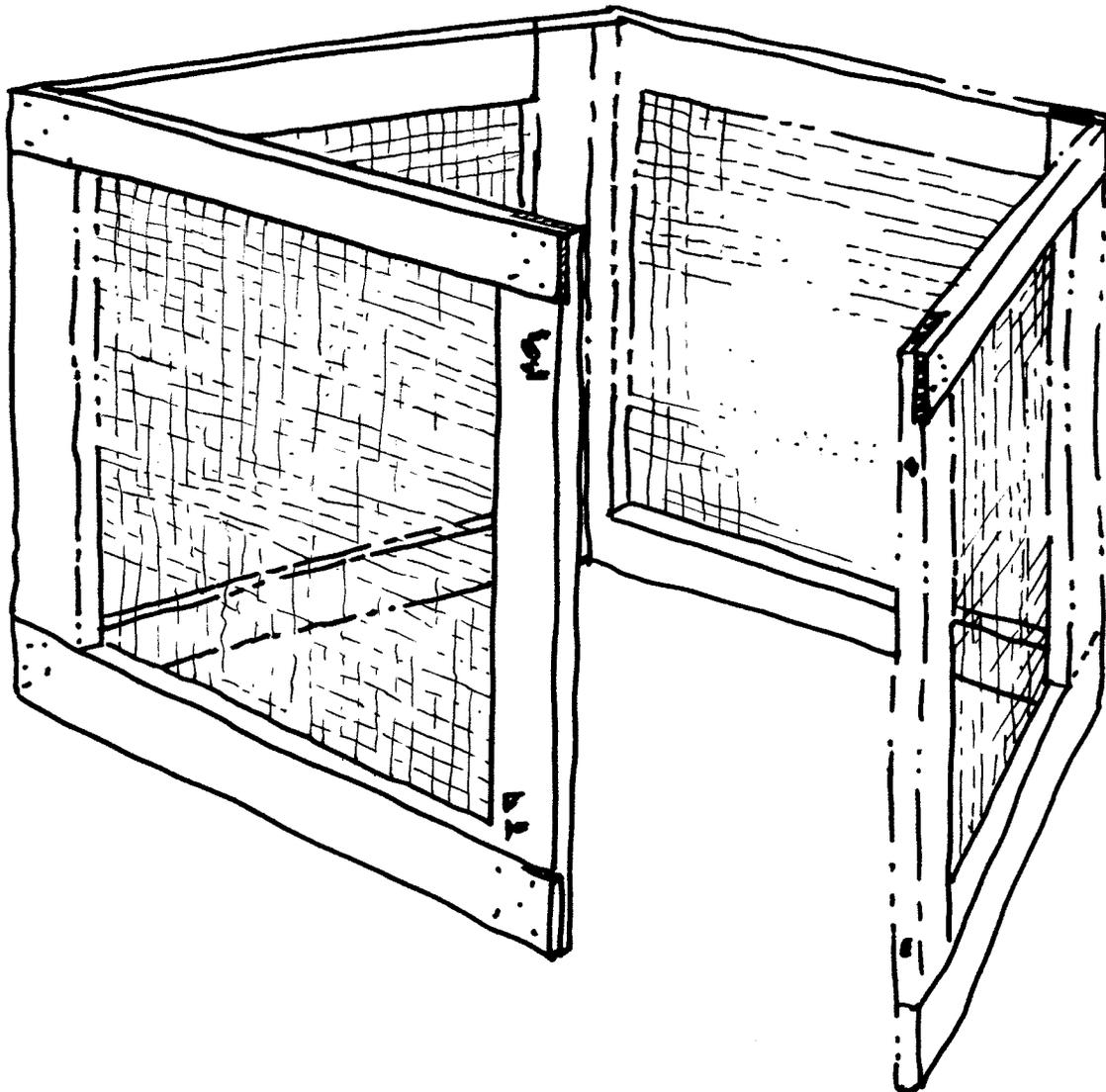


This composting unit is very flexible. It can be moved easily so you can turn a pile or build a new one. Simply undo the latches, pull the sides apart, and move it. It can also be used as a stationary unit, and works well in small spaces.

PORTABLE WOOD & WIRE COMPOSTING BIN

Approximate Cost: \$80

Skills and Tools Needed: basic carpentry skills and tools



MATERIALS

- (1) 12' x 2" x 4" lumber
- (3) 12' x 2" x 4" lumber
- 12' of 36" wide ½" hardware cloth
- (100) 1½" galvanized #8 wood screws
- (4) 3" galvanized butt-door hinges
- 150 poultry wire staples or power stapler
- (1) 10 oz. tube exterior wood adhesive
- 4 large hook and eye gate latches

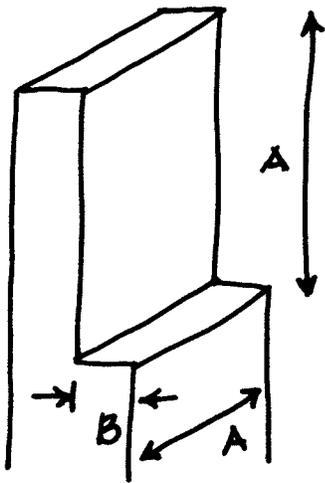
TOOLS

- Handsaw and chisel, *or* radial arm saw with dado blade, *or* circular saw, *or* table saw
- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Tin snip
- Caulking gun

Note: Do not use pressure-treated or chemically-treated wood for your compost bin.

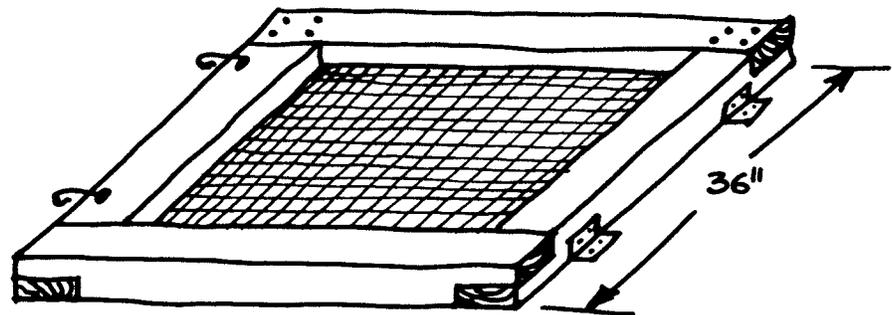
CONSTRUCTION

1. Cut each 12' x 2" x 4" piece of lumber into four pieces, 3' long. Cut a ¾" deep and 3½" wide section out of each end, for a total of 32 lap cuts. If using a handsaw and chisel, cut ¾" down at the 3½" line— at A in diagram below. Then cut a ½" deep groove into the end of the board—at B in the diagram. Place a thick wood chisel in the end groove and split the wood with a hammer to the 3½" cut. If using a radial arm, circular, or table saw, set the blade to ¾" depth and make multiple passes until the whole section is removed.
2. Make four 3' square frames from the lap-jointed 2" x 4"s. Put enough construction adhesive to fill the gaps when the lap joints are screwed together. Fasten each joint with four screws.
3. Cut the hardware cloth with tin snips into four 3' square sections. Bend the edges of the cloth back over 1" for strength. Lay one onto each of the four frames. Center and tack each corner with a poultry wire staple. Try to tension the cloth so it will not sag when filled with compost.



4. Connect each pair of frames together with two hinges. Then put the hook and eye gate latches on the other ends so that the sections latch together.

(This design sheet was originally produced for the Community Composting Education Program in Seattle, Washington.)



Thank you to The Recycling Council of Ontario for their permission to reprint.



Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

137 Barre Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Tel: 802-229-9383 or 800-730-9475 / Web site: www.cvswmd.org