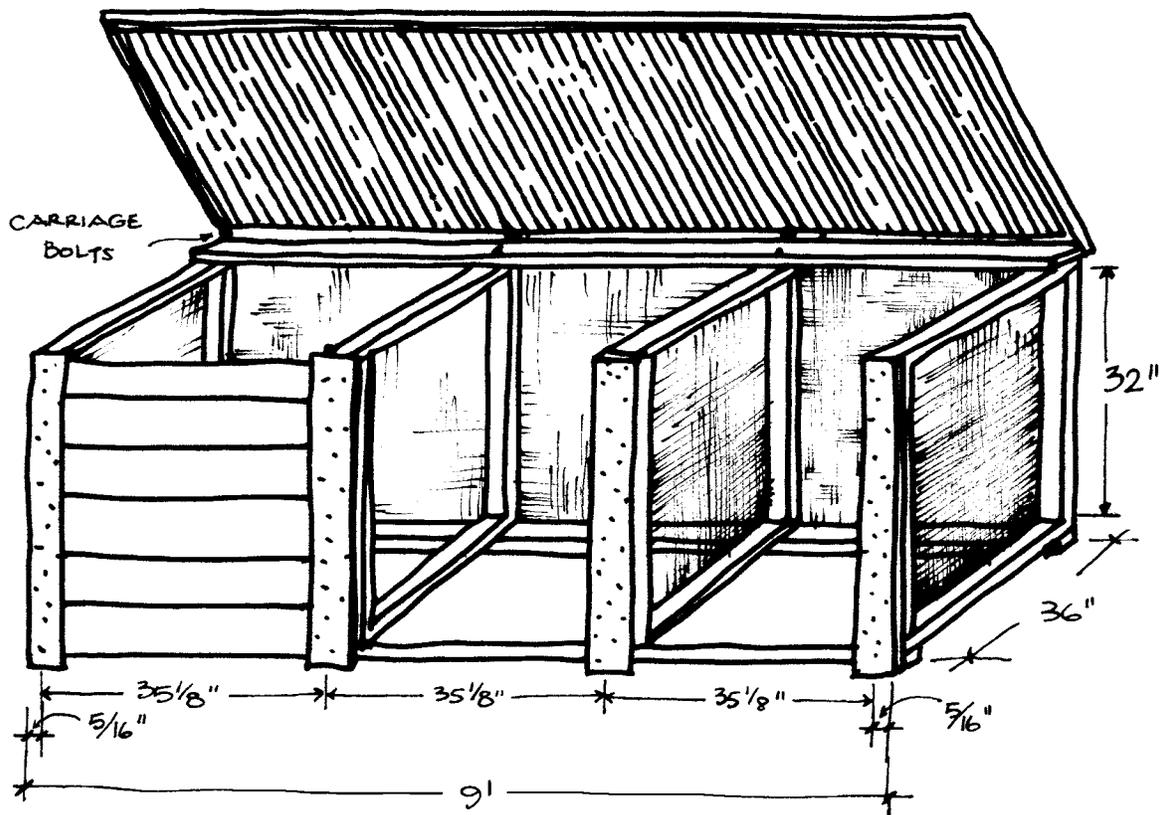


This system is used to compost large amounts of yard and kitchen wastes in a short period of time. Compost piles are made and turned on a regular basis.

WOOD & WIRE STATIONARY 3-BIN SYSTEM

Approximate Cost: \$248

Skills and Tools: basic carpentry skills and tools



MATERIALS

- (2) 18' x 2" x 4" lumber
- (4) 12' x 2" x 4"s *or* (8) 6' x 2" x 4" lumber
- (1) 9' x 2" x 2" *and* (2) 6' x 2" x 2" lumber
- (1) 16' x 2" x 6" lumber
- (9) 6' x 1" x 6" lumber
- 22' of 36" wide 1/2" hardware cloth
- (12) 1/2" carriage bolts 4" long
- 12 washers and 12 nuts for bolts
- 2 lbs. of 3 1/2" galvanized nails
- 1/2 lb. of 2 1/2" galvanized casement nails
- 200 poultry wire staples (or power stapler with 1" staples)
- (1) 12' *and* (1) 8' sheet 4 oz. clear corrugated fiberglass roofing
- (3) 8' lengths of corrugated molding strips
- 40 gasketed aluminum nails for corrugated fiberglass roofing
- (2) 3" zinc-plated hinges for lid
- (8) 4" flat corner braces with screws
- (4) 3" flat t-braces with screws

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

TOOLS

Handsaw or circular power saw
Drill with ½" and ⅛" bits
Screwdriver
Hammer
Tin snips

Tape measure
Pencil
¾" socket or open-ended wrench
Carpenter's square
Safety glasses, ear protection, and dust mask

CONSTRUCTION

Build Dividers

Cut two 31 ½" and two 36" pieces from each 12' x 2" x 4". Nail the four pieces into a 35" x 36" square. Repeat for the other three sections. Cut four 37" long sections of hardware cloth, and bend back the edges 1". Stretch the hardware cloth across each frame, check for squareness of the frame, and staple the screen tightly into place every 4" around the edge.

Set Up Dividers

The dividers will be set parallel to one another and 3 feet apart. Measure and mark center for the two inside dividers. Cut four 9' pieces out of the two 18' x 2" x 4" boards. Place two 9' baseboards on top of the dividers and measure the positions for the two inside dividers. Mark a center line for each divider on the 9' x 2" x 4". With each divider, line up the center lines and make the baseboard flush against the outer edge of the divider. Drill a ½" hole through each junction centered 1" in from the inside edge. Secure the baseboards with carriage bolts, but do not tighten yet. Turn the unit right side up and repeat the process for the 9' board. Using the carpenter's square or measuring between opposing corners, make sure the bin is square and tighten all bolts securely. Fasten a 9' long piece of hardware cloth securely to the back side of the bin with staples every 4" around the frame.

Front Slats and Runners

Cut four 36" long 2" x 6"s for front slat runners. Rip cut two of these boards to 4¾" wide and nail them securely to the front of the outside dividers and baseboard, making them flush on top and outside edges. Save the remainder of rip cut for use as back runners. Center the remaining full width boards on the front of the inside dividers flush with the top edge and nail securely. To create back runners, cut the remaining 2" x 6"s into a 34" long piece and then rip cut into 4 equal pieces, 1¼" x 34". Nail the back runner parallel to the front runners on side of divider, leaving a 1" gap for slats. Cut all of the 1" x 6" boards into slats 31¼" long.

Fiberglass Lid

Use the remaining 9' x 2" x 4"s for the back of the lid. Cut four 32½" x 2" x 2"s and one 9' x 2" x 2". Lay out into position on the ground (as illustrated on the front) and check for squareness. Screw in the corner braces and T braces on the bottom side of the frame. Center the lid frame, brace side down, on the bin structure and attach with hinges. Cut the corrugated moulding strips to fit the front and back 9' sections of the lid frame. Pre-drill the corrugated moulding strips with ⅛" drill bit and nail with 2½" casement nails. Cut fiberglass to fit flush with the front and back edges. Overlay the pieces at least one channel wide. Pre-drill the fiberglass and corrugated moulding strips for each nail hole. Nail on top of every third hump with gasketed nails.

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Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

137 Barre Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602

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