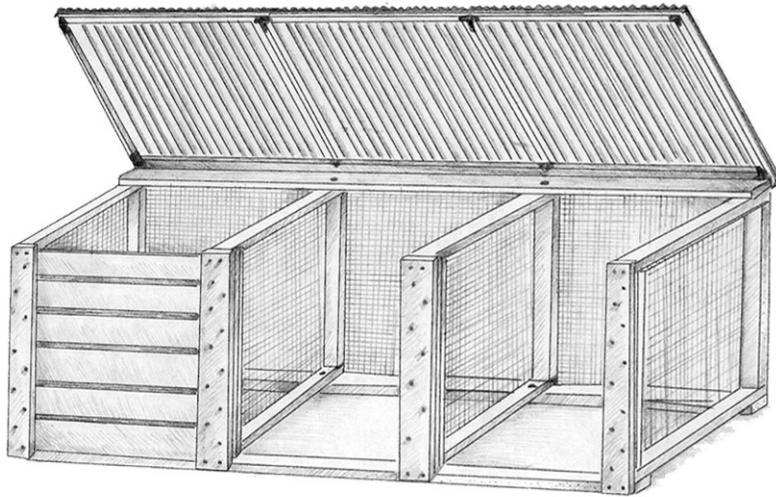


# Wood and Wire Stationary 3-bin System



This system is used to compost large amounts of yard materials in a brief period of time.

Yard materials can either be stored until there is enough to fill an entire bin or added as available. Materials should be chopped or bruised, moistened, and mixed to ensure a hot compost.

A pile made with a balance by volume of 50% fresh greens and 50% dried, brown or woody materials and turned every seven to fourteen days can be ready to use in three to six weeks. Aged compost is more beneficial as a soil amendment, but aging will add 3 to 6 weeks to the compost process. The texture of the finished compost depends on the materials composted.

This unit can be built for approximately \$300-375. Construction requires basic carpentry skills and tools. Do not use treated wood or treat the finished 3-bin unit with wood preservatives or paint of any kind. If you can afford the extra expense, using cedar for all bin parts will extend the life of the bin.

For additional composting information consult the *Composting at Home* guide available through the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline, 206.633.0224, or the web addresses listed on the back of this sheet.

## Materials\*

- 2 18 foot cedar 2x4s
- 4 12 foot (or 8, 6 foot) cedar 2x4s
- 1 9 foot 2x2
- 2 6 foot 2x2s
- 1 16 foot cedar 2x6
- 9 6 foot cedar 1x6s
- 22 foot of 36" wide ½" hardware cloth
- 12 ½" carriage bolts 4" long
- 12 washers and 12 nuts for bolts
- 3 lbs. of 16d galvanized nails
- ½ lb. of 8d galvanized casement nails
- 250 poultry wire staples or power stapler
- 1 12 foot sheet and
- 1 8 foot sheet, 4 oz. clear corrugated fiberglass
- 3 8 foot lengths of wiggle moulding
- 40 gasketed aluminum nails for corrugated fiberglass roofing
- 2 3" zinc plated hinges for lid
- 8 flat 4 corner braces with screws
- 4 flat 3" T-braces with screws

## Tools

- hand saw or
- circular power saw
- drill with ½" and ⅛" bits
- screwdriver
- hammer or
- power stapler with 1" long galvanized staples
- tin snips
- tape measure
- pencil
- ¾ socket or
- open-ended wrench
- carpenter's square
- safety glasses
- ear protection



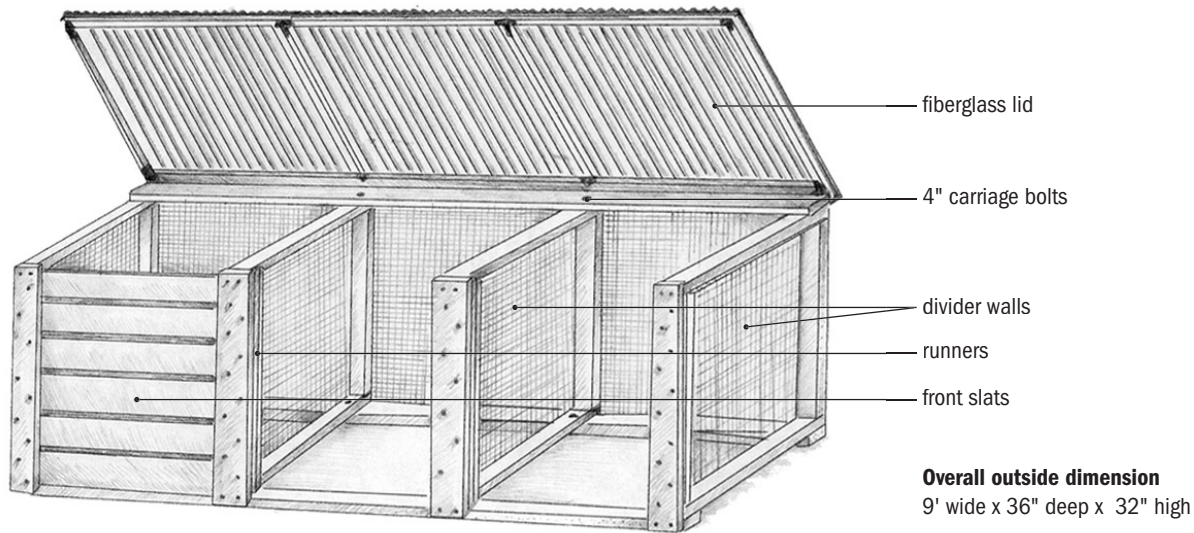
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\*Wood products that have the FSC logo give "the consumer a guarantee that the product has come from a forest which has been evaluated and certified as being managed according to agreed social, economic and environmental standards."



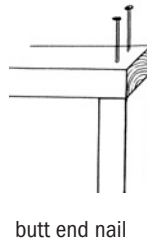


**Overall outside dimension**  
9' wide x 36" deep x 32" high

**Each bin section**  
35 $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide x 36" deep x 32" high

## Construction Details:

**Build Dividers** Cut two 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and two 36" pieces from each 12 foot 2x4. Butt end nail the four pieces into a 35" x 36" section. Check to make sure each divider section is square. Repeat for other three sections. Cut four 37" long sections of hardware cloth, bend back edges 1". Stretch hardware cloth across each frame, check for squareness of the frame and staple screen tightly into place every 4" around edge.



butt end nail

**Set Up Dividers** Set up dividers parallel to one another 3 feet apart. Measure and mark centers for the two inside dividers. Cut four 9 foot pieces out of the two 18 foot 2x4 boards. Place two 9 foot base boards on top of dividers and measure the positions for the two inside dividers. Mark a centerline for each divider on the 9 foot 2x4. With each divider, line up the centerlines and make the baseboard flush against the outer edge of the divider. Drill a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole through each junction centered 1" in from the inside edge. Secure baseboards with carriage bolts, but do not tighten yet. Turn the unit right side up and repeat the process for the top 9 foot 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 foot long piece of hardware cloth securely to the backside of the bin with staples every 4" around the frame.

**Front Slats and Runners** Cut four 36" long 2x6s for front slat runners. Cut lengthwise two of these boards to 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and nail them securely to the front of the outside dividers and baseboard, making them flush on top and outside edges. Save remainder of rip cut boards

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 2x6 into a 34" long piece and then rip cut into 4 equal pieces, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2". Nail back runner parallel to front-runners on side of divider leaving a 1" gap for slats. Cut all the 1x6" cedar boards into slats 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long.

**Fiberglass Lid** Use the last 9 foot 2x4 for the back of the lid. Cut four 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 2x2s and one 9 foot 2x2. Lay out into position on ground as illustrated on front page and make sure they are square. Screw in corner braces and T-braces on bottom side of the frame. Center lid frame, brace side down on bin structure and attach with hinges. Cut wiggle board to fit the front and back 9 foot sections of the lid frame. Pre-drill wiggle board with  $\frac{1}{8}$ " drill bit and nail with 8d casement nails. Cut fiberglass to fit flush with front and back edges. Overlay pieces at least one channel wide. Pre-drill fiberglass and wiggle board for each nail hole. Nail on top of every third hump with gasketed nails.

### More on Natural Yard Care:

To receive the Naturals Guides: *Composting at Home*, or *Building Healthy Soil* or for more information on composting please call the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at 206.633.0224 or email them at: [lawn&gardenhotline@seattletilth.org](mailto:lawn&gardenhotline@seattletilth.org)

### More resources can also be viewed at these websites:

[www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/composting](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/composting)  
[www.cityofseattle.net/util/rescons/](http://www.cityofseattle.net/util/rescons/)  
[www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org)  
[www.compostwashington.org/](http://www.compostwashington.org/)

### This and other compost bin plans can be found at:

[www.seattletilth.org/download/download.html](http://www.seattletilth.org/download/download.html)  
[www.dnr.metrokc.gov.swd/ResRecsy/composting/composting/shtml](http://www.dnr.metrokc.gov.swd/ResRecsy/composting/composting/shtml)