



How to Build a Two Bin Composter

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Purpose of this bin:

This compost bin is intended to be used in a school or community setting as an educational and functional tool. It is user-friendly for all ages with features like easily removable slats and light-weight lids. It is meant to keep out any vermin due to the small wire mesh and the posts that raise the bin off the ground. The two compartments allow for efficient composting, allowing compost piles to exist at different stages.

Preparations:

Make sure that the area where the bin is going to be placed is as level as possible.

You may need to place the bin on pavers depending on the ground.

Practice tool safety by wearing eye protection and having a first aid kit handy.

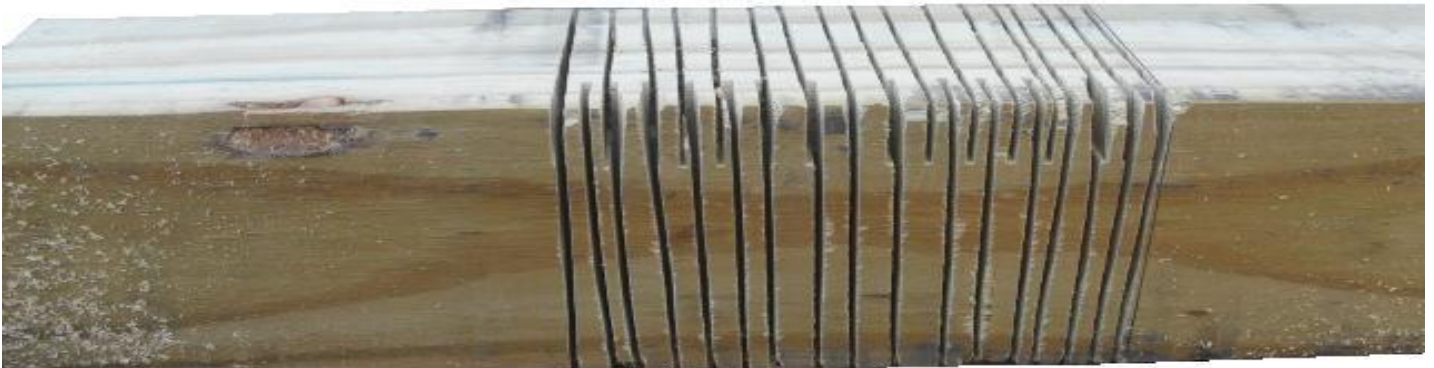
Measure and make a mark 4' from each end of the two 4x4x8's

Cut the two 4x4x8's at the 4' markers.

RESULT: Four 4' posts.

Six inches from the bottom of each post, mark off where to cut out notches that are 5 5/8" long and 5/8" deep on two adjacent sides.

Using a circular saw, make several cuts in the marked off area (pictured below).





Using a hammer and chisel, break off the pieces and make the area smooth.



RESULT: Four notched out 4x4 posts.



Cut one 2x6x8 in half.

RESULT: Two 2x6x4 boards.

Using the 4" TimberLok screws, screw the boards to the sides of the 4x4 posts where the notches were made. The exposed notch should be facing outward. These will become the short ends of the bin.



RESULT: Two ends of the bin.

Orient the ends so that they are 8' apart.



Using the 4" TimberLok screws, screw on the 2x6x8's to the front and the back where the notches were made.



Cut one 2x6x8 in half.

RESULT: Two 2x6x4 boards.

Notch out one of the boards six inches from the bottom, using a 2x6 as a reference for the size of the notch. The depth of the notch should allow enough room for a 5/4x6 board to sit on top of the back 2x6x8. (See page 10)



Orient the 2x6 boards so that they are 4' between each end.

Use a carpenter square to check the positioning of the boards before screwing them into place.



View of the back side.



Screw a 2x4x8 on top of the back side by screwing one 4" TimberLok screw into each post.



Tack a 4x8 piece of wire mesh to the back of the bin.



Screw five 5/4x6x8 boards to the back of the bin over the wire mesh. Screw the top and bottom boards on first. The bottom panel goes right on top of the 2x6

(The model pictured above has a substituted 2x2 board)

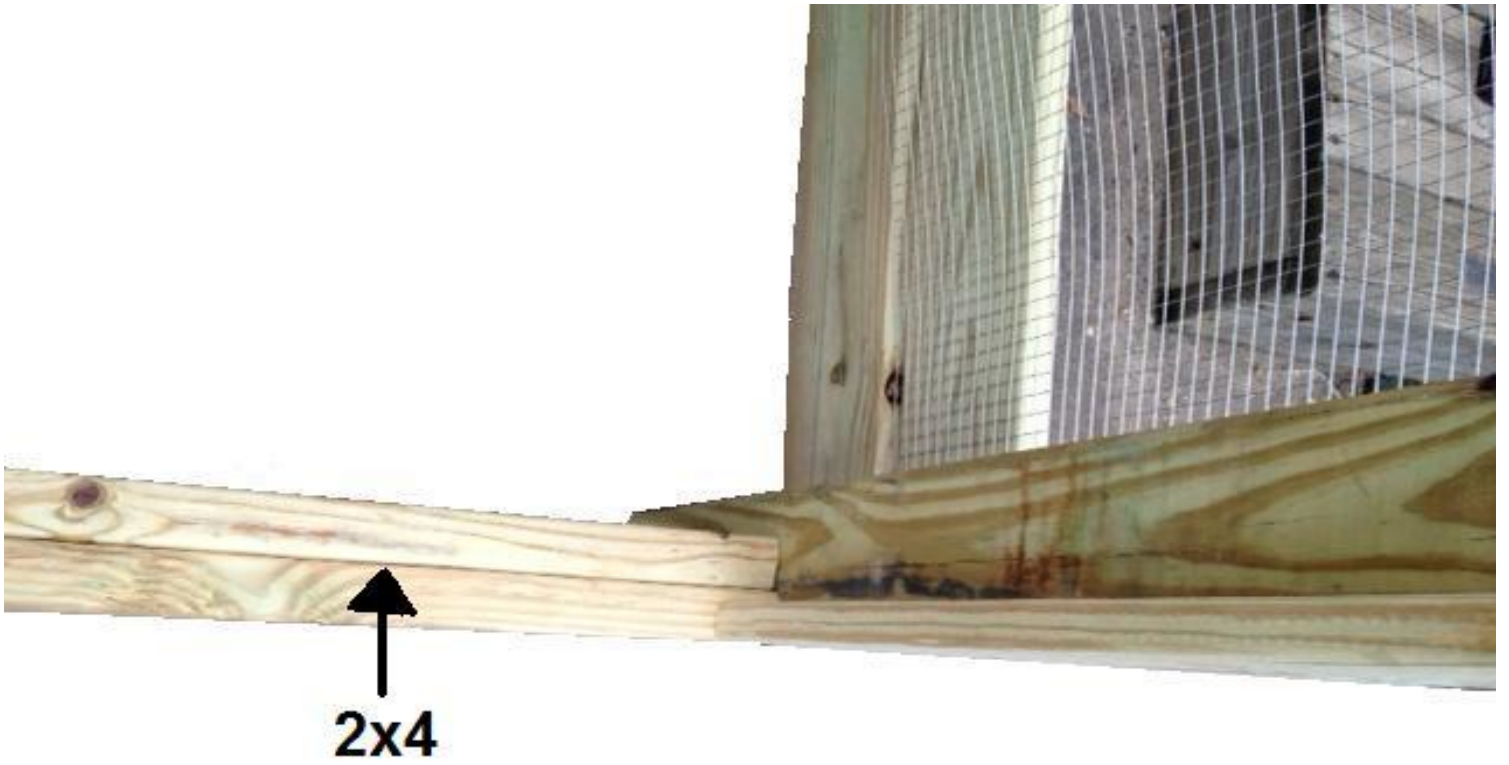


Tack a 4x4 piece of wire mesh to the outside out the end posts.

Cut five 5/4x6x8's in half.

RESULT: Ten 5/4x6x4 boards.

Screw the 5/4x6 boards over the wire mesh, five for each side. Like the back side, screw on the top and bottom boards first. The bottom panel goes right on top of the 2x6



Cut and screw four 2x4 pieces to the inside of the front and the back of the 2x6x8's in between the 4x4 posts and the middle 2x6 post



Tack 4x4 piece of wire mesh to the middle 2x6 posts.

Cut two 5/4x6x8's in half.

RESULT: Four 5/4x6x4 boards

Screw four 5/4x6x4 boards to the middle posts over the mesh, screwing on the bottom 5/4x6 just above the floor boards.



Cut and screw three 5/4x6x3 boards to the front posts.

Behind the 5/4x6's on the front, cut and screw 2x2 pieces using a 5/4x6 as a reference. This will create the space where the slats will go.



Cut eight 2x6x8's in half.

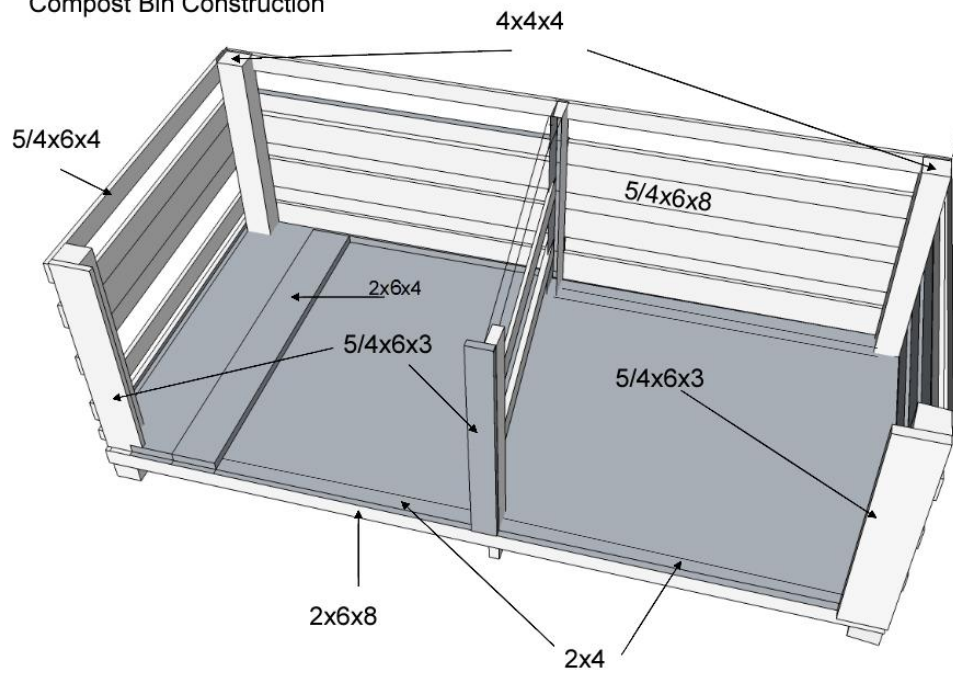
RESULT: Sixteen floor boards.

On one floor board make notches for the middle post.

On two floor boards make notches for the corner 4x4 posts.

Screw the floor boards to the 2x4's on the inside of the front and the back. There should be eight floor boards for each side.

Compost Bin Construction



Cut and screw two 2x2's to the top of the front 2x6x8, having it flush with the front.



For the roof, cut four 1x4x8's in half.

RESULT: Eight 1x4x4 boards.

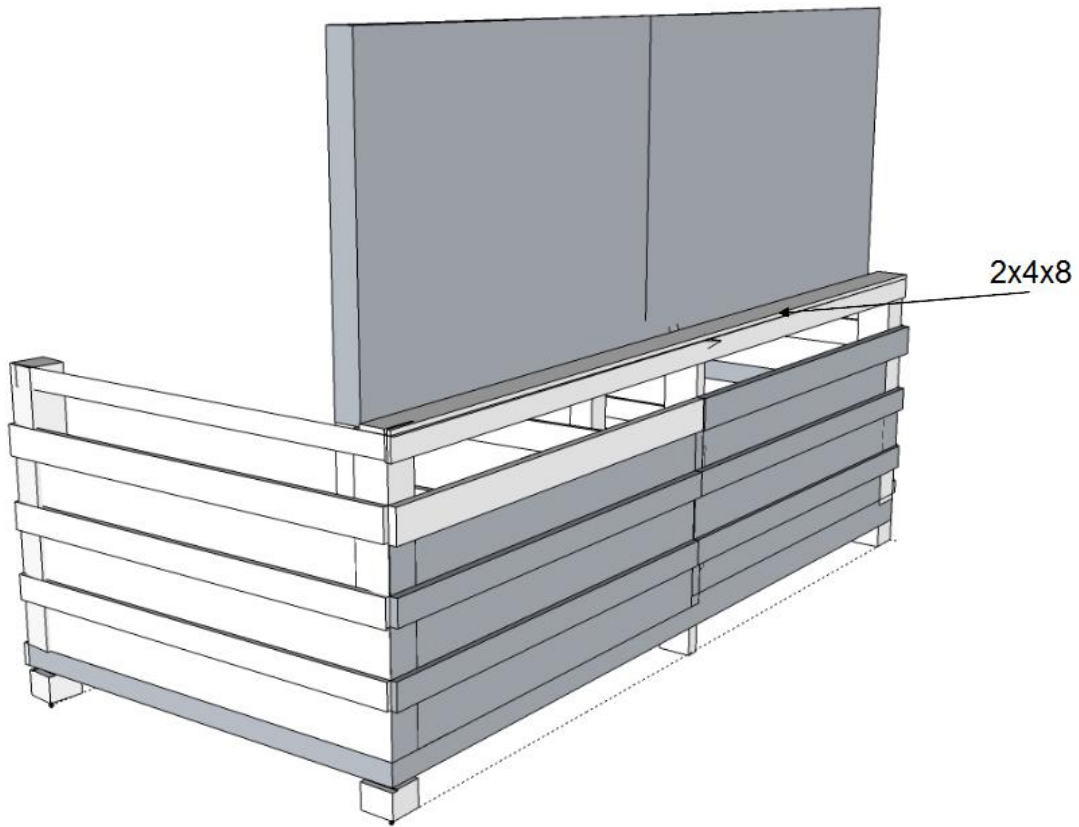
Arrange the 1x4x4 boards into two squares and screw them in place.

Screw on the corner braces to the corners of the square designated as the back side.



Screw on two Tie Plates to the top of each square towards the side designated as the front.

Screw four small supporting blocks of wood to the inside of both squares. Cut and screw two 5/4x6's to the top of the supports. (1x4 pictured above)



Secure the two lids to the back 2x4x8 using two hinges for each lid.



Screw on the PVC roofing with the strong drive screws along the front and back ends of the square and along the supporting boards.

Fold the roofing over the side edges and screw the roofing down.

-If there is some overhang, make sure it is toward the front of the bin. If it is in the back it will interfere with the opening of the lids.



Screw 2x2 pieces onto the inside of the ends to hold up the lids while in use.



Cut six 5/4x6x8's in half.

RESULT: Twelve 4/5x6x4 slats, six for each side.

Materials List

Compost Bin Parts (prices are estimates and subject to change).

Lumber	Item	Length	Quantity	Individual Price	Total Price
1	2x6 Weather Shield	8'	11	5.47	\$60.17
2	5/4x6 Weather Shield	8'	19	5.57	\$105.83
3	4x4 Weather Shield	8'	2	7.97	\$15.94
4	2x4 Weather Shield	8'	3	3.97	\$11.91
5	1x4 w-pan	8'	4	3.97	\$15.88
6	2x2 Weather Shield	8'	4	3.37	\$13.48
Hardware					
1	TimberLok Screws	4"	50	pk	\$28.31
2	Exterior Screws	2.5"	2 pk	8.47	\$16.94
3	Corner Brace	4"	4	pk	\$7.24
4	Hinges	3.5"	4	2.78	\$11.12
5	Roofing PVC Green	8'	2	13.23	\$26.46
6	Strong Drive Screws	#8*1.25	1	pk	\$8.98
7	Galv Roofing Nails	3/4"	1lb	pk	\$2.98
8	Galv Tie Plate	5.75"x7"	4	2.53	\$10.12
9	Hardware Cloth	1/4"x4'x5'	4	17.28	\$69.12
				Total	\$404.48