



Compost Bins

FIND the PERFECT COMPOST BIN

Compost Holding Units: There are SO many methods and devices to hold your burgeoning compost. Compost bins, compost tumblers...you can even build your own compost bin. They range from simple and quite inexpensive to complex, even attractive containers that cost considerably more. There are several options here for you to choose from. Hopefully one will work for you and fit your lifestyle.



Price ranges from free (pallets) to \$160

Pallet Holding Systems: Build your own or buy assembled (Natural Cedar Louvered Bins). Size—30"x39"x36"
Advantages: Able to put units side by side for a 3-bin turning system (make finished compost while starting a new pile); pallets are cheap; large capacity
Disadvantages: Heavy & bulky to move; "static" systems have slower rate of composting; must be turned & watered often or will dry out; not critter-proof (use for yard waste only)!



Complex wire bins range from \$80-\$100

Wire Mesh Holding Bin: Build your own out of chicken wire or buy complex coated mesh bins.
Advantages: Rust & corrosion resistant; life expectancy 10-20 years; cheap; easy to build; light weight.
Disadvantages: Bin can be easily crushed or bent; tendency for materials to dry out; not critter-proof (use for yard waste only)!



Retails for \$80 for composter and \$20 for activator

Bokashi Kitchen Composter: 16"x10"x10"
Advantages: Small indoor, year-round system; no odor; great for apartments or condos without a yard; "microbial inoculation" ferments and pickles food and table scraps in less than half the time of conventional compost bins.
Disadvantages: Compost needs an activator to work properly; not a natural composting method (doesn't use natural microorganisms to break down waste).



Range in price from \$50-\$200

Plastic Holding Bins: Garden Gourmet, Super Composter, Earth Machine, Soilmaker/Soilsaver. Size ranges from 10-13 cubic feet (80-85 gallons)
Advantages: Soilsaver is insulated and winter resistant; some bins come with base plates so they can be placed on back decks; compact size; resistant to pests; reduce moisture loss; come with lids.
Disadvantages: Limited holding capacity; relatively expensive; doors may not open easily to get finished compost; often difficult to turn.



**Visit www.composters.com for more information on composters and tumblers; prices and ordering information.

Compost Tumblers & Turning Units

Tumblers & turning units have many advantages such as a high degree of pest resistance, easy turning, and finished compost in a short period of time. However compost bins do require careful attention to detail in order to achieve rapid composting. Tumblers are often very expensive (\$150-\$300). Keep in mind that with tumblers compost produces in batches, so you may have to stockpile fresh materials or buy a separate holding bin. Also, as with all tumblers that are off the ground, a compost starter (finished compost or a manufactured accelerator) is needed to introduce necessary microorganisms



Retails for \$165
plus S&H on
Composters.com

Eco-Cycle Base Tumbler: Size is 27"x22"x33" or 7 cubic feet. Comes with a 5 year warranty through Composters.com. Made of 50% recycled plastic.

Features & Benefits: Compact and durable; self-contained with base (can use on porches and decks); animal resistant; ample aeration through top and bottom openings; detachable flip door; detachable base can collect up to 5 gallons of liquid fertilizer or compost "tea."



Retails for
\$197 plus
S&H on Com-
posters.com

Tumbleweed Tumbler: Size is 46" x 26" x 34".

Constructed of durable, UV protected polypropylene plastic.

Features & Benefits: Vertical tumbling action offers a quick and odorless form of off-the-ground composting; stainless steel rod that runs through the center helping to break up and aerate compost with every tumble; two animal resistant twist lock vented lids at either end, which allow for easy filling and emptying of the bin; design keeps content moist, but not soggy.



Urban Compost Tumbler: Size is 44" x 31.5". Made out of 95% recycled materials. The patented center aeration tube with its cross bar, not only helps keep oxygen in the mix for faster decomposition, but also assists in the break up and separation of compost as it is turned. This prevents compost turning into a ball and just sliding back and forth when tumbled. The aeration tube entrance at the bottom is covered with a stainless steel screen to prevent rodents and insects from entering barrel.

Additional Features & Benefits: Fully enclosed, off-the-ground unit; rodent & kid proof; Stand is made of weather-resistant TREX® (recycled plastic lumber); made of UV Protected Plastic.

Retails for \$229
plus S&H on
Compos-
ters.com.

Summit County
Residents Get
\$15 off at
composters.com/
summitcounty

High Country Conservation Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting practical solutions to waste reduction and resource conservation for our mountain community.
(970)-668-5703 www.highcountryconservation.org jen@highcountryconservation.org