**MAKING A WOODEN COMPOST BIN**


 Figure 1.

**Materials**

* One 4-x-8-foot sheet of 1/2-inch exterior plywood
* One 12-foot length of 2 x 4 lumber
* One 16-foot length of 2 x 4 lumber
* 16d galvanized nails (1/2 pound)
* 6d galvanized nails (2 pounds)
* Two galvanized door hinges
* One pint of clear varnish (optional)
* Plastic sheets for placing under and over the bin (optional)

**Tools**

* Tape measure
* Skill saw or hand saw
* Hammer
* Sawhorse
* Long straight-edge or chalk snap line
* Screwdriver
* Drill with 1/2-inch bit
* Eye and ear protection
* Work gloves
* Paint brush (optional)

**Building Figure 1b.**

* Cut a 24 x 42 inch top, one 24 x 42 inch base, two 16x24 inch ends, and two 16x42 inch sides off of the plywood.

**Building Figure 1c.**

* The 12 foot in length 2x4 lumber should be divided into five pieces. From the five pieces, two 39 inch pieces, two 23 inch pieces, and one 20 inch piece should be cut.
* Once the 12 foot in length 2x4 lumber is split into its five pieces, form them in a rectangle shape on an open flat surface. The long pieces should be located on the inside with the 20 inch piece centralized in a parallel fashion to the ends. At each joint, two 16d nails should be nailed in to piece the five pieces together.
* Nail a 23-x-42-inch piece of plywood on top of the frame with 6d nails 3 inches apart.

**Putting the Rest of the Bin Together to Look like Figure 1a.**

* The 16 foot length of 2x4 lumber will be used to cut four one foot length pieces (remember to hold the remainder of the 12 foot piece as well). Utilize the two 16-x-42-inch pieces of plywood and place one of the 1-foot length flat against each short end and level with the top and side edges then nail the 2 x 4s in place using 6d nails.
* Set the plywood sides up right against the base frame so that the bottom edges of the 2 x 4s lie on top of the frame of the base and the bottom edges of the plywood sides overlap the base frame. Nail the plywood sides to the base frame using 6d nails.
* Next, nail the 16-x-24-inch pieces of plywood onto the base and sides at each end.
* For the reinforcement of the bin, strike the nails at least every 3 inches wherever the plywood and 2 x 4s meet.
* For an effective drainage system, drill twelve 1/2-inch holes through the plywood bottom of the bin.
* To construct a lid frame, cut the 12-foot piece (that was used from the 16-foot length) of 2 x 4 lumber into two 45-inch pieces and two 20-inch pieces. With the short pieces inside, rest the pieces flat and form a rectangle.
* Place the 24-x-42-inch piece of plywood on top of the lid frame so that the plywood is 1-1/2 inches inside all the edges of the frame. Nail the plywood onto the frame with 6d nails.
* Connect the hinges to the inside of the back of the bin at each end (on the 2 x 4), and the same undersides of the rear edge of the lid frame, so that the lid stands vertically when opened.

**The Finished Product**

* The finished bin should last for at least five years. Using varnish or polyurethane on the bin will protect the wood and thus increasing its longevity. Two coats of varnish with a light sanding between coats will make the finishing a lot more efficient. If the lumber is pressure treated then the bin will last years longer.

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