

MAKING A PLASTIC COMPOST BIN

You can make an old bin or recycling bin into a great worm composting bin!

With only minor modifications, these plastic containers make excellent bins for worm composting (Fig. 1).



Figure 1.

From the following instructions one will learn how to:

- 1) Elevate the compost bin off of the ground
- 2) Add some holes for drainage and ventilation.
- 3) Collect “compost tea” or “leachate” to enhance gardening experience.
- 4) Add a lid.

The result will be a compact worm farm that will transform your kitchen scraps into a rich fertilizer which neighborhood gardeners will envy!

- 1) Use scrap wood and a couple screws or nails to create feet for each corner of the bin (Fig. 2).
 - a. Another alternative is to set the bin on top of four bricks. The idea is to elevate the bin to provide for drainage and ventilation.



Figure 2.

- 2) The liquid that will drain out of the base is called “leachate” or “compost tea” and will stain cement, so either set the bin either on dirt or grass if one wishes not to collect the leachate.
- 3) To collect the compost tea, place a tray under the bin, or settle another bin underneath to collect the leachate.
 - a. Drilling ventilation holes of about three inches below the top along each side and two to three holes per side should adequate.
 - b. The drainage holes should be no smaller than 1/4” and no bigger than 3/8”.
 - c. Leachate can act as a great fertilizer. To use it, simply dilute the leachate with water and then add it directly to a garden.
- 4) Use the lid that the plastic bin comes with at purchase (Figure 3).

Keep a lid on the bin to help retain the moisture, to keep the bin dark (worms are sensitive to light), and to keep pests and flies away.



Figure 3.