

# 3 Compartment Composter

## Materials list:

2 - 18ft. 2by4s  
4 - 12ft. or 8 - 6ft. 2by2s  
1 - 16ft. 1by6  
(Cedar is suggested but other wood can be used)  
9 - 6ft. 1by6  
22ft. of 36in. wide ½ in. hardware cloth (we used a plastic version for our unit)  
12 - ½ in. carriage bolts 4in. long  
12 washers and 12 nuts for bolts  
2lbs of 3 ½ in. (16d) galvanized nails  
1/2lb 2 ½ in. (8d) galvanized casement nails  
200 poultry wire staples  
(or power stapler with 1in. galvanized staples)

## Tools Required:

Handsaw or circular power saw  
Drill with ½ in. & 1/8in. bits  
Screwdriver  
Hammer  
Tin snips (if using wire instead of plastic)  
Tape measure  
Pencil  
¾ in. socket or open ended wrench  
Carpenter's Square  
Safety glasses, ear protection & Dust mask.

## Directions:

### Build Dividers

Cut two 31 ½ in. and two 36in. pieces from each 12ft. 2by4. Butt end nail the four pieces into a 35in. x 36in. square. Repeat for the other three sections. Cut four 37in. long sections of hardware/plastic cloth. Stretch the cloth over each frame, check for squareness and secure into place every 2 to 4 inches around the edge.

### Set up Dividers

The dividers will be set parallel to each other and 3ft. apart. Measure & mark center for the two inside dividers. Cut four 9ft. pieces out of the two 18ft. 2by4s. Place two 9ft. base boards on top of the dividers and measure the positions for the two inside dividers.

### Complete Dividers

Mark a center line for each divider on the 9ft. 2by4. With each divider, line up the center lines and make the base board flush against the outer edge of the divider. Drill a ½ in. hole through each junction centered 1in. from the inside edge. Secure the base boards with carriage bolts, but do not tighten yet. Turn the unit right side up and repeat the process for the 9ft. board. Using the carpenter's square or measuring between opposing corners, make sure the bin is square and tighten all the bolts securely. Fasten a 9ft. long piece of hardware/plastic cloth securely to the back side of the bin with staples every 2-4in. around the frame.

### Front Slats & Runners

Cut four 36in. long 2by6s for front slat runners. Rip cut two of these boards to 4 ¾ in. wide and nail them securely to the front of the outside dividers and baseboard, making them flush on top and outside edges. Save the remainder of rip cut 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 2by6s into a 34in. long piece then rip cut into 4 equal pieces, 1 ¼ in. x 2 in. Nail the back runner parallel to the front runners on side of divider leaving a 1in. gap for slats. Cut all the 1by6 boards into slats about 31in. long. Slide into place as required.

