



HOW TO MAKE A THREE-BIN COMPOST SYSTEM USING PALLETS

Materials Needed

7 pallets, similar sized¹
14 rebars or landscaping stakes 5 or 6 feet long
Hammer
18 (approximately) wire coat hangers, untwisted
Sticks to cover the ground at the bottom of the bins
Green and brown materials to compost
Garden soil or compost to start the composting process
Water
Chicken wire (optional)

1. Lay out the pallets so that three form the back of the bins and 4 form the sides.² Turn the pallets on their sides so that the rebars can be inserted through the middle of the pallet.
2. While one person holds the pallet up on its side, the other person hammers in two rebars or landscaping stakes between the wooden slats. This should hold the pallet in place temporarily.
3. Repeat the process with the remaining pallets until three adjoining bins have been staked up.

¹ Many businesses will give away their used pallets. Try big box stores or just about any business that unloads merchandise or supplies on pallets.

² Two people working together make constructing the bins quicker and easier.



4. Twist the coat hanger wire at the top, middle and bottom of each corner where the pallets come together.



5. Cover the bottom of each of the bins with layers of sticks. This will provide some oxygen (air) for the compost pile as well as inhibit tree roots from growing into the bin.

6. Now the bins are ready for making compost.

- One idea is to start layering equal amounts of brown material (such as shredded leaves) and green material (such as grass or vegetable peels and scraps) in the first bin. Then when you want to turn the pile, simply shovel it to the middle bin. Move the contents of the middle bin to the last bin to finish the composting process.
- A second way to use the three bins is to start your compost pile in the middle bin. One of the other bins can be used to store shredded leaves or other brown materials. This is handy during the warm season when there is likely to be more green material available than things such as brown leaves.



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