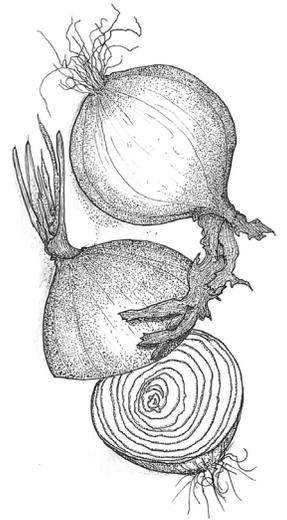


# BUILDING A PALLET COMPOST BIN

There are many ways to set up a compost system for your backyard or community garden and any of them can produce high quality compost if you add the right ingredients. Pallet bin systems are one of the most popular because pallets are a cheap and easy material to build with. Pallet bins are also easy to adjust to fit any size garden's composting needs. The following is a design for a single bin that is approximately 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet, but more bins can be added as needed.



## CONSIDERATIONS FOR WHERE TO PLACE A COMPOST BIN

- **SIZE:** Think about how much material you'll be composting. If the pile is just for your household and a small family garden you won't need a space bigger than 3 feet by 3 feet. If you're hoping to produce enough compost to provide all the needs for a market or community garden you'll want more space. For a pile to properly heat up it should be at least 3 feet tall, 3 feet wide and 3 feet long.
- **CONVENIENCE:** The compost pile is more likely to get used if it is in a convenient space. An space that is easily accessible to turn the pile is all that is needed. Also think about how you'll be removing finished compost (with buckets? wheelbarrow? truck?) and how much space that might take up.
- **MATERIAL STORAGE:** If you are going to be making a lot of compost you may want to create an area to store extra material for adding to compost, such as leaves during the fall. It's best if this is near to your compost area and easy to access.

## MATERIALS AND TOOLS NEEDED

- 3 pallets (per bin)
- Rust resistant wire (old electrical wire works well) or old wire hangers cut into 18 inch lengths
- Wire cutters
- Hammer
- 8-9 wood stakes or T-posts

## HOW TO BUILD A PALLET BIN

- Clear out a space where you want to construct the compost bin.
- Stand one pallet on the end with the openings facing the ground (*see image below*)
- Stand second pallet on end perpendicular to the first pallet touching the sides together creating a corner for the bin.
- Use cut pieces of wire to tie together the bottom and top of each joining pallet so that they are secured together.
- Add third pallet and repeat at opposite side of first pallet creating a 'bin'.
- Place stakes or T-posts inside open top of pallet (two per pallet), one at each end. Pound stakes at least one foot into the ground to stabilize the bin.
- Fill your bin with alternating nitrogen (e.g. grass clippings, manure, food scraps and brew waste) and carbon materials (e.g. straw, leaves, shredded paper and wood chips) and add water to finished pile.
- The pile will take at least 2 to 3 months (and as many as 6 months) to produce finished compost. Turn the pile monthly and keep moist to expedite the process.



This Resource Guide is prepared by Keep Growing Detroit for participants in the Garden Resource Program. For more info please contact 313-757-2635, [keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com) or visit our website at [WWW.DETROITAGRICULTURE.NET](http://WWW.DETROITAGRICULTURE.NET)