

MAKE IT

**THE
GROWING
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

Food and Farming Zone

**LEARNING OUTSIDE
THE CLASSROOM**

Compost Bins

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Three-bay compost bin



Description

A structure that will serve as compost area for the organic matter removed from the garden. This could include grass cuttings from the meadow, vegetable trimmings from the allotment or leaf mould from the woodland.

Function

Compost heaps where sides and back form a permanent structure but the front elevation can be removed in sections to allow access during filling and emptying.

Location

Situated in the rear left corner of the garden close to the vegetable garden. The structure will sit on unmade ground (soil) so can include posts to be recessed in the ground for stability or structural support.

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Construction

Size

1 metre wide external x 2 metres long external x 1.2 metres high
3 required – these can either be formed as one cohesive structure (3m x 2m), see diagram below, or three independent units.

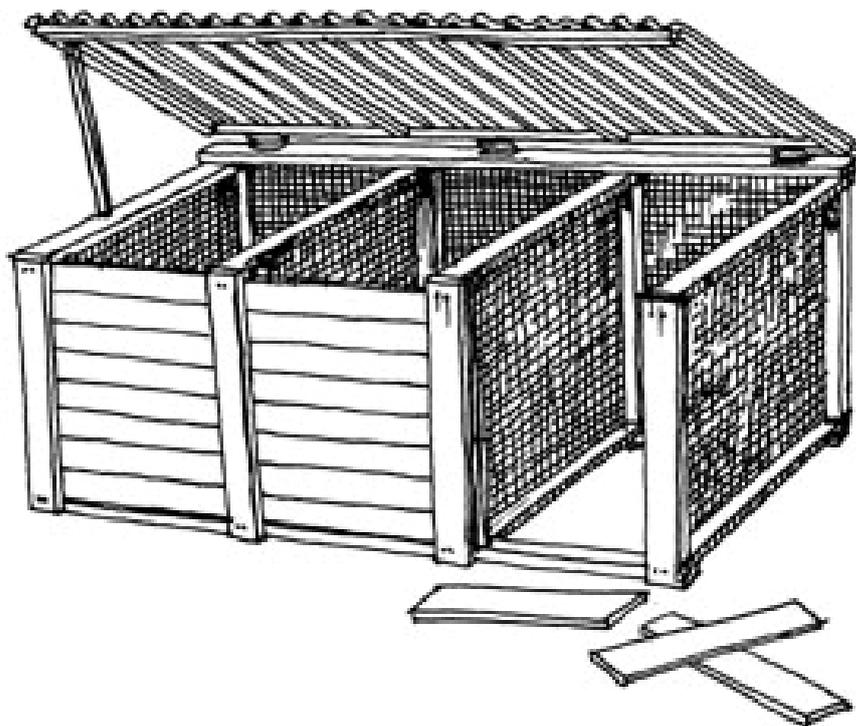
Materials

Wood used in the construction to be from a sustainable source or recycled.

Special Details

- All vertical surfaces are to be 60% solid and 40% voids to allow air into the decomposing heap.
- Ground surface to be in contact with the organic matter of the heap to allow micro-organisms to pass through.
- Explore possibility of including a thermometer in the heap to allow readings of the temperatures to be taken and monitored.
- Front elevation of structure to be decorated with artworks to demonstrate the organisms responsible for decomposition – worms, ground beetles, bacteria, fungi etc.
- Roll out or fold down lid to be fitted to restrict rain access and also retain moisture in the compost. This does not have to be waterproof but merely act to shed the worst of the water.

Indicative diagram



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Contributing school

West Hill Primary School, Devon

We are supplying a three-bay composter made entirely from recycled materials, labelled on the front panels with the three main composting seasons – all designed and prepared by five of the pupils from Year 5 using their own artwork and recycled materials.



'I am really proud of our artwork on the compost bin.'

'I've learned what can be composted and it was really cool to use recycled things like my Mum's welly boot as lettering on our compost bin.'