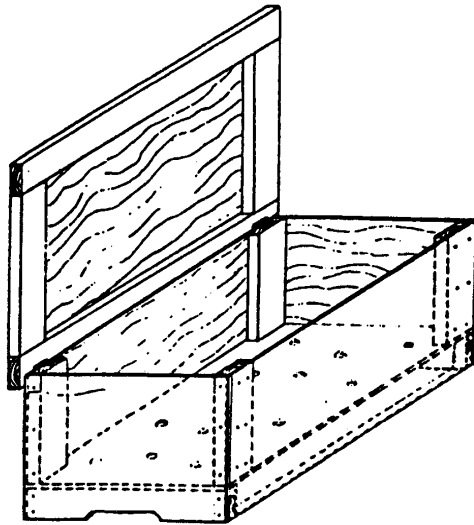


TILTH WORM COMPOSTING BIN



This system is designed for composting vegetable food wastes using red worms. Food wastes and worms are "bedded" in moist shredded newspaper, cardboard, sawdust or brown leaves. The worms turn both food wastes and bedding into a high-quality compost suitable for use on house plants, seedlings or general garden use.

To maintain this system simply rotate burial of food wastes throughout the bin. Every 3-6 months compost should be moved to one side of the bin and new bedding added to the empty half. At this time start burying wastes in the new bedding only. Within one month worms will populate the new bedding, finished compost may be harvested and the rest of the bin can be rebedded. Worm bins can be kept outside, or in a cool indoor space such as a basement or garage. Make sure your bin is full of bedding and located in a protected area to keep your worms from freezing in winter. A properly maintained worm bin is odorless. Bins may be placed in a shady outdoor space the remainder of the year. Flies may be controlled by placing a sheet of plastic over the bedding.

This bin can be built for about \$30-50, depending on the type of wood used. Worm bins can also be made from recycled materials, wooden boxes, or other containers. Any worm bin must have drainage in the bottom and a tight fitting lid to keep moisture in and pests out. A starter batch of worms can be purchased at a small additional cost, or find some in an old compost pile! Seattle Tilth sells red worms at the Backyard Composting Demonstration site or call the Compost Hotline for other sources of worms. For more information see Mary Appelhof's book, Worms Eat My Garbage and the "Easy Composting of Food Waste" brochure, also available from Seattle Tilth.



**The Master Composter Program is sponsored by
Seattle Tilth Association and Seattle Public Utilities.
Call the Compost Hotline at 633-0224 for more
information about composting and recycling.**

This recycled paper is recyclable.



Seattle Public Utilities

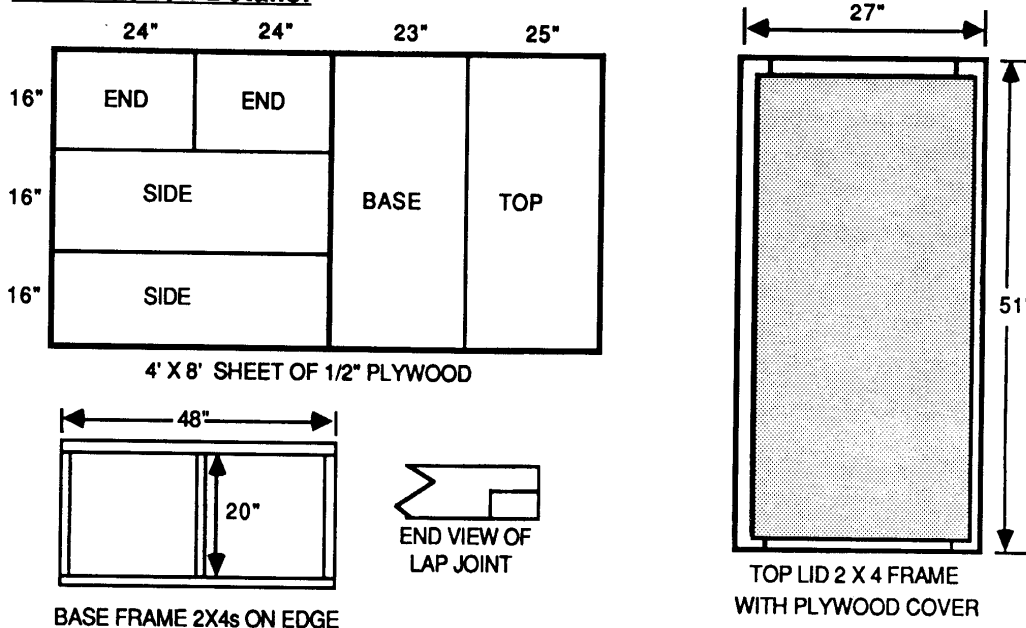
Materials:

- 1 1/2" sheet of exterior plywood or chipboard
- 1 14' utility 2x4
- 1 16' utility 2x4
- 1/2 lb. 4d galvanized nails or 1-1/4" drywall screws
- 12. 16d galvanized nails
- 2 3" galvanized door hinges

Tools:

Tape measure, skill saw or rip hand saw, hammer, saw horses, long straight edge or chalk snap line, screwdriver, and drill with 1/2" bit.
Use eye and ear protection.

Construction Details:



Measure and cut plywood as indicated in drawing above. To make the base, cut the 14' 2x4 into five pieces: two 48" and three 20" long. The remaining 12" piece will be used to make the sides. Nail the 2x4s together on edge with two 16d nails at each joint as illustrated in the Base Frame diagram. Nail or screw the plywood base piece onto the 2x4 frame using the 4d nails or drywall screws

To build the box, cut three 12" pieces from the 16 foot 2x4. Place a one foot 2X4 under the end of each side panel so that the 2X4 is flush with the top and side edges of the plywood, and nail the boards into place. Nail or screw the side pieces onto the base frame. To complete the box, nail the ends onto the base and sides. To reinforce the box place a nail or screw staggered every 4-6 inches wherever plywood and 2x4s meet. Drill twelve 1/2" holes through the bottom of the box for drainage.

To build the lid, take the remaining 16 foot 2x4 and cut it into two 51" pieces and two 27" pieces. Cut and chisel lap joints in the corners, then glue and nail or screw the frame together. Center the plywood lid on the 2X4 frame and attach with 4d nails or 1-1/4" screws. Position hinges on the lid so that screws will attach to 2X4s on the box frame. Attach hinges on the under side of the 2x4 lid frame, then place lid on box and attach.