

**Objective:** Students will be able to describe how composting works and will create their own composting bin.

**You will need:**

- 8 gal or larger plastic tote (can be a new tote or an old broken tote) with lid
- Drill with 1/4" drill bit
- Yard and food scraps

**Optional:** Worms!



**Directions:**

1. Drill holes about 1-2" apart all over the sides, top, and bottom of your tote. This will provide the aeration needed for the composting process.
2. Place bin in a spot that is not in direct sun all day. If it gets too much sun, it will dry out your compost and slow the process.
3. Add your yard waste and kitchen scraps. Do NOT add any meat/ meat products, dairy products or animal waste to your compost.

**Hint:** The smaller the pieces of waste, the faster the process!

4. Turn the compost at least 1-2 times weekly by shaking the bin or stirring with a shovel.
5. Keep your compost moist. If too dry just add a little water. If too wet add dry leaves, shredded newspaper or sawdust to soak up some of the water.

**Option 1:** Put a lid under the bin to catch the fertilizer "tea" to add to your garden.

6. Keep adding waste and mixing and you should have usable compost in 3-6 months.

**Option 2:** Add worms! You can either catch local earthworms or buy some red wigglers from a bait shop. You may want to mix by hand rather than a shovel so you don't hurt your worms. Happy composting!!!



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3