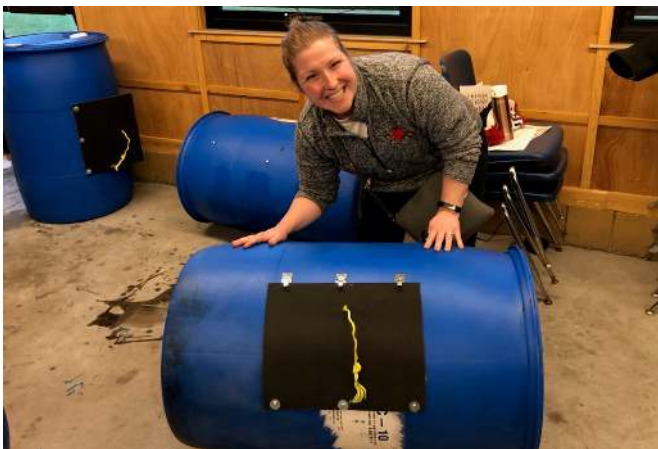


Build Your Own Compost Tumbler



Save water, money, time and maintenance costs by using yard waste to benefit you and your soil. By tumbling this composter around the yard once a week, you could have a barrel full of compost by the end of the season. Use compost to mix in soil, potted plants, or use as mulch for gardens.



- 3 - 5" carriage bolts with nuts to break up yard waste
- 1 - 6" piece of rope for a handle
- 1 drill and bits to make holes for hinges, latches, carriage bolts and air holes
- Screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches

Process

1. Cut a door into the side of the barrel

Using a marker, draw an outline of the door on the side of the barrel. The door should be slightly smaller than the 12"x15" rubber belting.

Drill a hole in each corner of the door outline. Insert the jig saw blade into one of the holes and cut out the door.

Clean inside of barrel if needed with hose and scrubbing material.

2. Install carriage bolts to break up waste

Install 3 - 5" carriage bolts into the side of the barrel. Use a nut inside the barrel to hold each bolt in place. Carriage bolts help to break up yard waste as the barrel is rolled.

3. Install washers and bolts to create the hinge

Drill 3 holes through the rubber belting on one of the long edges

Place the rubber belting on the barrel where you cut out the door. Drill 3 holes through the barrel where the holes are in the rubber belting.

Materials

- One food grade barrel (preferably 55 gallon): barrels of this type can be purchased at local hardware stores, on Craigslist and occasionally bakeries. The barrel should have only been used to store food products.
- Jigsaw to cut open the door
- Hose and scrubbing material for washing barrel (if needed)
- 12" x 15" rubber belting from hardware store that serves as the door
- 3 - 5" carriage bolts with nuts to break up yard waste
- 3 washers, 3 - 4" bolts, and 3 nuts to make the hinges that fasten the door to the barrel
- 3 door snap fasteners (pictured) with screws and nuts to fasten to the barrel



Fasten the washers and bolts through the rubber belting and barrel. This acts as a hinge for the door.

4. Install door snap fasteners

Install 3 door snap fasteners on the opposite side of the washers and bolts installed in step 3.

5. Attach handle

Drill a hole through the rubber belting where you want the handle to be. Pull rope through the hole and tie a knot on each end.

6. Drill air holes

Drill several holes, about 3/4" in diameter, on the top and bottom of the barrel for aeration.

DIY rolling system (optional)



Some users develop a system to aid in the rolling process. For example, barrels can be placed on rollers and rolled in place.

Materials

- 2 - 3'x6" boards

- 4" - caster wheels (another option is to use old skateboard wheels)
- Drill
- Phillips screw bit
- 16 - Phillips 1/2" screws for the caster wheels
- 3/8" diameter drill bit (optional)
- 4 - 6" spikes (optional)

Instructions



1. Place the castor wheels 12" in from each end of the board on both sides. The space in between the wheels should be 8".
2. Secure the wheels using the Phillips screws.
3. To prevent the rollers from moving, drill 2 - 3/8" holes 2" in from each end and place a spike through the holes (optional).

Maintenance

There is little maintenance required for compost systems. Depending on the climate, if there is material left when cold weather arrives the process will slow down considerably, perhaps stop altogether. This is normal. The process will continue once temperatures start to rise.

Last updated: Jan 2020

River Keepers
Kimberly@riverkeepers.org
701.356.8915
riverkeepers.org

Clay Soil & Water Conservation District
Amanda.lewis@clay.mnswcd.org
218.287.2255
Claycountymn.gov/272/Soil-Water-Conservation-District

Cass County Soil Conservation District
Amy.cole@nd.nacd.net.net
701.282.2157 Ext. 3
Casscd.org