



Build Your Own Compost Tumbler



Why a Compost Tumbler?

Compost tumblers can be used to speed up the normal process of producing compost. Usually, gardeners who make compost will place their lawn and garden waste in a pile in the corner of the yard or garden and turn it occasionally with a fork or shovel.

Depending on the rate of turning, rainfall and temperature, the waste can be used as compost at the end of the season. This entire process can be hastened by using barrel composter. The process is as simple as placing garden/yard waste into the barrel composter and rolling it across your yard a few times a day!

Materials List

- One food grade barrel, (preferably 55 gallon) : barrels of this type can be purchased at Macs in Fargo and Moorhead, on Craigslist and occasionally at bakeries. The barrel needs to be food grade, make sure they are of this quality before purchasing.
- 2 hinges with bolts to fasten them to barrel
- 1 latch with bolts to fasten it to the barrel
- 4-6, 4" bolts with nuts to flip the yard waste
- 1 saw to cut the trap door
- 1 drill and bits to make holes for hinge, latch, flipping bolts and vent holes
- Screwdrivers & Wrenches

Keeping with the theme of recycling...use parts that you may have in your junk drawer or workshop. There is no need to buy new parts for this project if you have used parts stored in your garage or shop. If you need to buy parts consider shopping at stores such as Habitat ReStore which encourage the recycling of such materials.



Process



1. A trap door is cut into the side of a used food grade barrel .

Depending upon the type of barrel a variety of tools may be used to cut the trap door. If it's a plastic barrel usually a jig saw or key hole saw is used. Make an outline of the door on the side of the barrel. Drill a hole in each corner. Insert the key hole or jig saw blade into one of the holes and cut out the trap door. Usually the door should be large enough to allow use of a shovel to insert the waste.

2. Place hinges on one side of the trap door.
2. Install a latch on the side of the trap door opposite the hinges.
3. Drill several holes, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, on the top and bottom of the barrel.
4. Install several 4"bolts into the side of the barrel. These help to flip the yard waste as the barrel is rolled.

For more information,

River Keepers

701.235.2895

christine@riverkeepers.org

Cass County Soil Conservation District/NRCS

701.282.2157 x3

ashley.fisk@nd.nacdnet.net

