

# How-to Compost Tumbler

## Description

Composting is Nature's Way to Recycle. It is decomposition of organic material such as leaves, twigs, plant material and vegetable food waste. This process reduces garbage going to our landfills and returns nutrients and organic matter back to the soil. "Compost" is the valuable soil product that is created by composting.

Composting occurs naturally but there are many different ways to speed up the process. You can tumble your way to quality compost faster, cleaner and easier than conventional composting. The drum is pierced with air vents on both ends and around the middle and rotates on four rigid steel casters for easy mixing and aeration. The drum also has a twist off lid so you can load organic material and unload finished compost with ease. With each tumble, oxygen, nutrients and microorganism mix and accelerate the composting process. Compost tumblers are especially appropriate for small urban spaces such as patios and rooftops when you have limited space and can't have a big free form pile.

When you want gold in your garden and don't have gold in your pockets this design can work for you.

## Materials

1 – Reclaimed food grade dark colored 55-gallon plastic drum with screw top lid  
16 - 1/2" exterior screws or 3/4" fence staples  
4 – 4" rigid steel caster (reclaimed roller blade wheels)  
35" x 23" piece of plywood  
2 - 23" 2x4s  
8 – 1 1/2" framing nails

Exterior stain for the plywood base (Sample Ext. Environmental Stain: Duro Stain by AFM Safecoat, Bioshield etc.)

## Tools

Miter saw  
Circular Saw  
Hammer  
Drill

## Directions

1. Cut plywood to 35"x23" using the circular saw.
2. Cut the 2x4s to 23" using the miter saw.
3. Stain the plywood and 2x4s.
4. Fasten the 23" long 2x4s to each end of the plywood using the framing nails.
5. Fasten casters to the plywood so the barrel is centered and elevated using exterior screws or fence staples.
6. Drill numerous holes at both ends and along the middle of the drum for aeration.
7. Place the drum on the casters and fill with organic material to begin composting.
8. Tumble the compost often.