Choosing a Compost Bin

When choosing a bin, keep in mind that a compost bin doesn’t make good compost all by itself. It’s up to the person using the compost bin to make good compost by adding the right materials, keeping the pile moist, and turning when necessary. Learn more at: www.stopwaste.org/compost.

**Plastic Compost Bin**
For food and yard trimmings
A large lid makes it easier to add materials and turn the pile
Bottom doors let you harvest finished compost while the bin is still active
Rodent proof if openings are 1/4 inch or less, the lid fits tightly, and the bottom is enclosed
Find plans at: stopwaste.org/compost-bins

**Yard Trimmings Bin**
For yard trimmings only
NOT rodent proof!
Useful for storing yard trimmings that will eventually be mixed with food scraps in a rodent proof bin
Can be plastic or metal
Easy to make out of hardware cloth, find plans at: stopwaste.org/compost-bins

**Compost Tumbler**
For food and yard trimmings
Can over aerate and dry out material
Vital decomposers, such as earthworms and bugs, can’t reach the material to help break it down.
More expensive than other options

**Build-Your-Own**
For food and yard trimmings
Made from wood and wire
Better than off-the-shelf plastic compost bins
Requires some carpentry skill and tools to make
Find plans at: stopwaste.org/compost-bins

**Worm Bin**
For food scraps only
Great for apartments
The best bin is easy to make out of a storage tote, learn how at: stopwaste.org/compost-bins

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