

Building A Compost Bin With Shipping Pallets

Compost bins come in many shapes, sizes and price tags. So why not build your own for cheap using recycled wooden shipping pallets? Besides, the less you spend on your composter, the more money you have for plants and flowers in the yard.

Materials Needed:

- 4 shipping pallets
- 4 L brackets
- 2 hinges
- 1 latch
- Screws (often they come with the hardware)
- 2-3 bricks or scrap lumber

Some places throw away pallets when they are done with them and if you can find the pallets for free, the rest of the materials should cost between \$10 and \$15.



Construction:

1. Hammer in any loose nails and decide which pallets will be the sides, back and front. One of my pallets was considerable nicer than the others, so I decided to make it the front gate.
2. Match up the back pallet with one of the side pallets and determine the best place for the L brackets. You will need one at the top and bottom. If you can, choose a place where the bracket will screw directly into the frame rather than the slats. Mark the location of the brackets and lay the pallets down before attaching them.





3. Attach both the top and bottom L brackets to the inside of the side pallet first (shown left). Then stand the pallets back up and attach the L brackets to the back side of the back pallet (shown below).



4. Repeat the last two steps with the other side pallet.
5. The front gate will need to be raised off the ground a couple inches so that it swings open easily. Use bricks or scrap lumber to keep the gate off the ground while you attach it.



6. Attach the hinges to the top and bottom of the inside of the compost bin. Try to put as many screws as possible into the pallet's frame. Set the front pallet on the bricks and attach the hinge to the front pallet (shown left).
7. Once the hinges are attached, attach the latch on the other side.

Your finished product should look something like this.

This type of compost bin is not only cheap but environmentally-friendly since the wood now has another purpose before heading to the landfill.

