

# Indoor method: **Compost Tub**

**Size:** Our bin was 40 cm wide x 61 cm long x 42 cm high, but any large tub can be used.

**Maximum capacity:** The bin can hold a total of 0.10 meters<sup>3</sup> (3.6 feet<sup>3</sup>).

**Price:** \$5—15

**Tester satisfaction:** very high

**Features:** Large tub with lid. Holes drilled in the sides and bottom, set on top of plastic tray on a second lid.

**What you can put in it:** Food waste (excluding meat, bones, dairy, and fats), small amounts of plant material, shredded paper and dryer lint. Requires dirt.

**“Yuck” factor:** Moderate. Materials are neatly enclosed but need to be checked and stirred often. Will not smell with proper care.

**Complexity to use:** Moderate-to-high. Contents must be carefully balanced and monitored to avoid smells or leaks.

**Mobility:** The bin is easy to move, though somewhat heavy when full.

**Available at:** Tubs available at many home stores.



Tested by: **Bev**



Bev is a very confident composter with many years of experience making compost outdoors. That is what led her to try the adventurous step of creating an indoor compost bin over the winter.

She designed her bin based on an internet tutorial that suggested layering dry dirt, shredded paper, and food waste indoors. In a single large tub, Bev was able to successfully process the food waste of her three person household, as well as

dry dirt from their many annual planters and shredded paper from their home office. She then used the finished compost as part of a potting mix for the next generation of potted plants.

Although smaller than an outdoor bin, the compost still consistently heated up to 35–40°C. Bev set up the bin in her unfinished basement, but said the waste processed with so little smell she could have done it upstairs in her living space. She was extremely pleased with the results of her experiment and plans to do it again.

## **Results:**

**Testing period:** December 2014—May 2015

### **Inputs:**

- 216 litres of organic waste (64% greens, 13% browns, 24% dirt or finished compost, 0% other)
- Added 0.6 litres of water
- Aerated 9 times for a total of 48 minutes

### **Outputs:**

- 102 litres of finished compost

### **Recommendations:**

Creating an indoor compost tub is a viable method for experienced, hands-on composters to deal with their food waste indoors. People new to composting should probably try to master the process outdoors first. An indoor compost tub is especially convenient for people who have a lot of annual potted plants, as the dead pots can be added to the compost tub for dry dirt, and the finished compost can be used as part of a potting mix for new plants.

An indoor tub must follow a few guidelines. The tub needs holes in the sides and bottom for aeration and drainage. It should be slightly elevated off the drip tray to improve airflow. The first layer must be dry dirt and shredded paper. More paper and dirt should be added with each addition of food waste. If the system seems to be getting too wet, leave the lid off or add paper. Materials will shrink down significantly, but when the bin is too full, finished compost should be harvested by hand into a second container and stored until needed.