

# Stationary bin: **Wooden Stacking Compost Bin**

**Size:** 92 cm wide x 92 cm long x 81 cm high

**Maximum capacity:** 0.68 meters<sup>3</sup> (24 feet<sup>3</sup>)

**Price:** \$55—75 for new lumber and hardware

**Tester satisfaction:** high

**Features:** Five large wooden tiers which fit together at the corners

**What you can put in it:** Food waste (excluding meat, bones, dairy, and fats), leaves, grass clippings, other yard waste (excluding cat or dog waste).

**“Yuck” factor:** Moderate-to-low. Materials are mostly enclosed and break down with a little interaction.

**Complexity to use:** Moderate-to-low. Some knowledge of balancing ingredients and adding water is helpful.

**In winter:** Breakdown stops, but you can keep adding materials as long as there is room.

**Mobility:** The bin is light and easy to move. You can lift the wooden tiers off individually.

**Available at:** Materials available at hardware stores; lumber scraps can also be used.



Tested by: **Dauna**

Dauna lives in a household of one with a small yard. She leaves her grass clippings on the lawn and has little garden waste. The main input for her compost system is kitchen scraps, with dry leaves to balance them out.

Dauna is an enthusiastic, hands-on composter with several years of experience making compost. She liked the wooden stacking bin and found it easy to use. She split the tiers into two shorter stacks, one for partly-finished compost and one for fresh materials.

In the past, Dauna has used a vermicompost bin to process her kitchen scraps.



## **Results:**

**Testing period:** May 2014—May 2015

### **Inputs:**

- 460 litres of organic waste (39% greens, 59% browns, 2% dirt or finished compost, 0% other)
- Added 60 litres of water
- Aerated 6 times for a total of 34 minutes

### **Outputs:**

- No finished compost was harvested during the test period

### **Recommendations:**

The wooden stacking bin is a good choice for midsized households with a moderate amount of yard waste. If 5 tiers are not quite enough space, it is easy to build 1-3 more tiers to increase the bin's height. Households with large amounts of yard waste may need a larger system or an additional bin.

The materials for this bin are quite inexpensive, and their price could be further reduced by using previously owned or salvaged lumber scraps. The bin is easy to assemble and requires only a saw, drill, and woodscrews. For the blueprint, see appendix VI.

The bin's low height and open top make it very easy to access and stir. The lack of lid means that rain can keep the contents damp during wet weather, but that the compost may dry out on hot, sunny days. Snow can also fill up the bin in winter. Dauna solved this problem by stepping on the frozen contents to make more room. The bin's open-bottom design is not rodent proof, but Dauna reported no trouble with mice or other pests.