

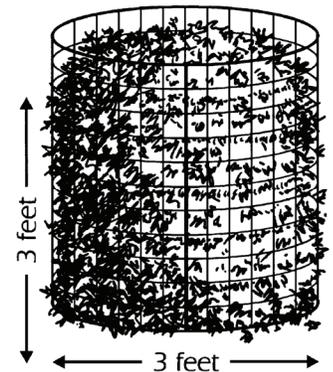
Welded Wire Cylinder Bin

These are inexpensive and easy to assemble. They are easy to move because a cylinder of welded wire fencing is stiff enough to stand up on its own without posts. Welded wire bins also offer ready access to the material inside for turning or harvesting your compost.

Materials needed:

Fencing length: The bin should be a minimum of 3 feet in diameter, so you need at least 10 feet of welded wire fencing. We recommend 11 or 12 feet, to give enough to overlap the ends and allow for expansion. (Max. diameter is 5', which requires ~15' of fencing.)

Fencing type: The fencing comes in different mesh sizes; 1" x 2" mesh or smaller is fine. Larger mesh (2" x 4") is less expensive and will also work, although some particles may fall through. Fencing width of 36" gives a 3'-tall bin; 48" width also works and would hold more, although a tall bin can be difficult to reach into. Garden supply stores sell the fencing by the foot.



Ties: Use short lengths of wire, plastic-coated twist-ties, or nylon string to tie the cylinder closed. (Tying the ends together makes it easy to undo the cylinder when you are ready to move the bin or harvest the compost.)

Assembly Steps:

The cut ends of the fencing are very sharp, so it is best to either snip the ends off close to a crosswire and then file down the edges, or cover each end of the fencing with two layers of duct tape folded over to cover the sharp wires.

Lap the ends of the fencing over each other to get a cylinder of desired size. Tie the ends closed, and set your bin in place.

Locate the bin in a shady, well-drained, level spot that is convenient to your kitchen and/or your garden. (Think of both summer and winter accessibility.)

Using the Bin

Fill the bin as you would any other type bin. The Lasagna method works well with a welded wire bin (see our Lasagna handout). When you wish to turn the material, or harvest finished compost, simply undo the ties and unwrap the fencing from around the compost. The material inside should hold its shape like a layer cake, because it will have settled and started to break down. Reset the cylinder in the desired spot, and start again.

