

How to Turn a Garbage Can into...

A Compost Bin or a Rain Barrel

Compost Bin

Materials

- A plastic or metal garbage can with a lid
- Coarse sawdust, straw, or wood chips

Or

- A 55-gallon plastic or metal barrel with lid (Be sure that the barrel has not been previously used for toxic chemicals.)

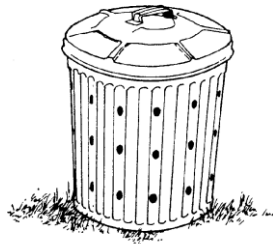
(Note: a hinge and latch may be used to secure the lid on the barrel)

Tools

- drill
- work gloves

Directions

1. Drill three rows of holes 4 to 6 inches apart all around the sides of the garbage can. The drill several holes in the base of the garbage can. The holes allow air movement and the drainage of excess moisture.
2. Place 2 to 3 inches of dry sawdust, straw or wood chips in the bottom of the can to absorb excess moisture and let the compost drain.



*Source: University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Cooperative Extensive Service, "Environmental and Natural Resources Issues Task Force"

Rain Barrel

Materials

- 1 - Heavy duty trash can
- 1 - ½" Hose bib
- 1 – 6" Chimney pipe trim collar
- 2 – ½" Faucet tailpipe nuts

- 2 - #15 O-rings
- 1 – ½" Threaded nipple
- 1 – ½" Threaded PVC extender
- 4 – Small screws
- 1 - piece 7"x 7" nylon screen

Tools

- Drill w/ screw tip
- ¾" paddle drill bit
- Tin Snips or Jig Saw

Directions

1. Drill ¾" hole approximately 3" to 4" from bottom of barrel.
2. Drill ¾" hole near top of barrel
3. Screw ½" treaded nipple into hose bib and insert into bottom hole.
4. Slide O-ring over treaded nipple from inside of barrel and screw on Faucet tailpipe nut until secure.
5. Insert ½" Treaded PVC extender into upper hole.
6. Slide O-ring onto treaded end from inside and secure with faucet tailpipe nut.
7. Cut 5" hole in trash can lid using tin snips or jigsaw.
8. Trim nylon screening to fit Chimney pipe trim collar.
9. Place screen, then trim cover over hole in lid and attach with screws.
10. It is recommended to sit rain barrel on two concrete blocks to provide for level surface.

*Source: Hampton Roads Water Efficiency Team website