## Build Your Own Stackable Wood Compost Bin

OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO


This wooden bin requires minimal carpentry skills and is designed to make turning a pile easier.

1. To turn the pile, remove the 2 lids and the lid section and place aside.
2. Remove the next section with the shelves and place on the ground next to the bin.
3. Fork compost into this section until full then stack another section on top.
4. Continue to move sections and the compost material from the old pile, until all the contents are in the newly placed pile.
5. Put the lid section on top and then the 2 pieces of the lid.

## Cost

The cost depends on the quality of the materials used. Figure on approximately $\$ 130$ or less if you salvage wood from an old fence.

## Time

Allow approximately 2 hours for 2 people after you have the materials.

## Tools

- Screwdriver and drill bits
- Hand or skill saw


## Materials:

The following materials list is for a 6 layer stackable bin using 1 inch $\times 6$ inches $\times 6$ feet fencing boards. If you are going to use some other size of lumber, measure and make the appropriate adjustments. The minimum bin size a bin should be is 3 feet $\times 3$ feet $\times 3$ feet.

- 16,1 inch $\times 6$ inch $\times 6$ feet fencing boards
- Cut each board in half to make 32,3 feet boards. You will have one left over.
- 6, 2 inch $\times 2$ inch $\times 3$ feet pieces of wood
- Cut 4 of them into 36,6 inch pieces which will become the shelves
- Cut 2 of them into 2,21 and 2,15 inch pieces for the top at the end of the project
- Approximately $115,1-1 / 2$ inch wood screws


## Directions

## Bottom 5 Sections

1. Screw 2 boards to each shelf, making sure they are offset so they extend $3^{\prime \prime}$ past the top of the section until you have a complete square as shown below. Each section should be fastened securely with at least 16 screws (4 on each corner).
*Tips:

- Drill pilot holes for the screws. Use a drill bit that is slightly smaller than the screw.
- Draw a line at 3 inches on the shelves and lay the fence board on the shelf to drill the pilot holes and put the screws in.

2. Continue until you have 5 full sections completed.


## Lid

1. Screw 2 boards to each of the remaining 2 inch $\times 2$ inch $\times 3$ feet boards 3 inches from the top until you get all 4 sides attached.
2. Screw 3 boards to 2 of the 2 inch $\times 2$ inch $\times 15$ inch boards with 2 screws for each board.
3. Screw 4 boards to 2 of the 2 inch $\times 2$ inch $\times 21$ inch boards with 2 screws for each board.

