



CLINTON COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT

FACT SHEET

THE FIVE MINUTE COMPOST BIN

Home composting of yard waste debris is the most effective management tool for residential materials. Backyard composting is less expensive than curbside subscription service, takes less time than bagging leaves or taking material to a drop-off site, and results in compost - an excellent soil conditioner for gardens. Described below is one easy method of composting. Contact the Clinton County Dept. of Waste Management at the number below with questions or to get more tips on composting.

Materials Needed:

- ◆ Four wooden pallets (available from many businesses for free)
- ◆ Wire cutters and wire

Instructions:

1. Select a location — adjacent to a garden is best. This allows garden and yard waste to be thrown into the bin with less steps, and the finished compost can be raked directly into the garden.
2. Stand two pallets up next to one another at 90° angles and wire corners together.
3. Add the third pallet and connect with wire.
4. Add the fourth pallet and connect with wire, forming a square.
5. Load the bin with layers of yard waste and soil. Add water if necessary to keep it as damp as a wrung out sponge. In time, material will be broken down into rich compost and ready to use. Turning the mixture accelerates the breakdown by adding oxygen.

Suggestion: Leave a garden fork next to the bin so that it can be turned frequently. Be sure to add water to the pile as needed, to maintain proper moisture. The wire connecting pallets will act like hinges on a gate; when compost is ready to be harvested, simply unwire one corner and swing the pallet open.

A good rule of thumb: Mix in 1/2 brown or carbon rich materials (leaves) to 1/2 green or nitrogen rich materials (grass & weeds, fruit and vegetable waste).

