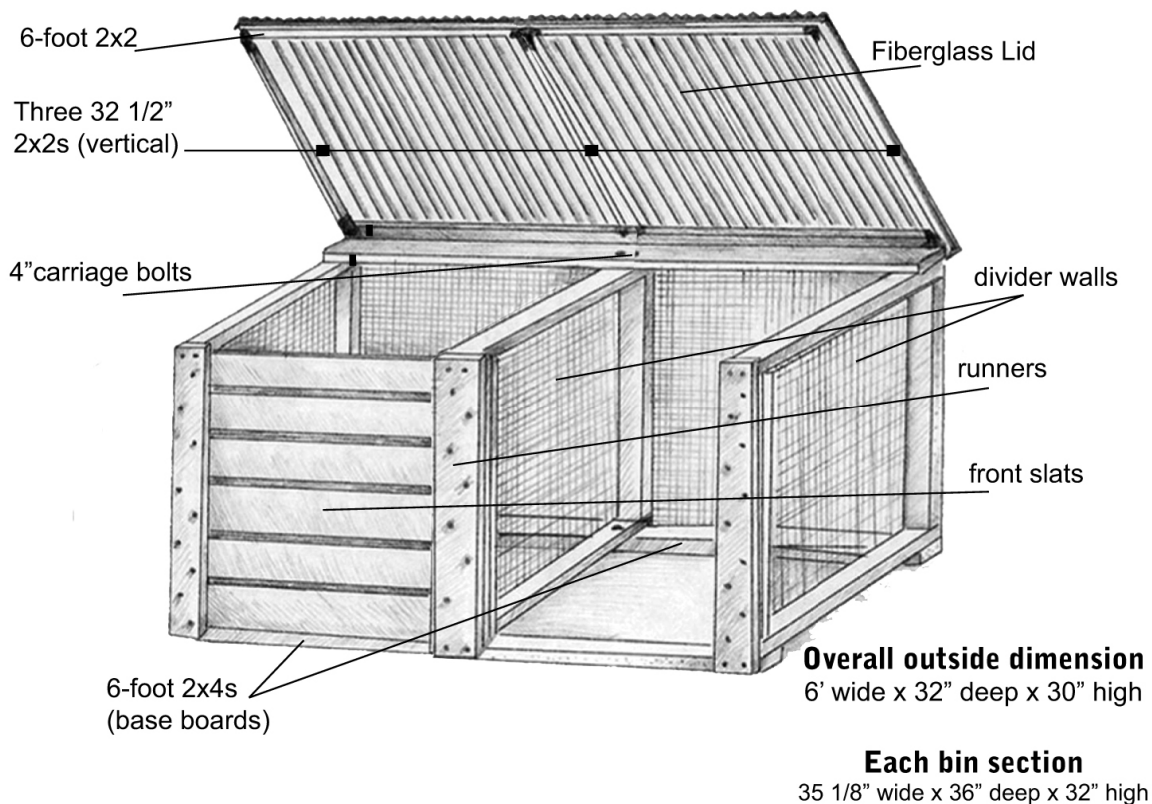


# Wood & Wire Stationary 2-bin System



**This system is used to compost large amounts of yard materials in a brief period of time.** Yard materials can either be stored until there is enough to fill an entire bin, or added when they become available. Materials should be chopped and bruised, moistened, and mixed to ensure the compost pile gets hot. A pile can be ready for use in three to six weeks if it is turned every seven to fourteen days and has a balance of 50% fresh greens and 50% dried, brown or woody materials. Compost is more beneficial as a soil amendment when aged, but the aging process will add another three to six weeks. The texture of the finished compost depends on the materials composted, heat and moisture content.

This unit can be used to create compost or to hold materials to be used later in the garden. Construction requires basic carpentry skills and tools. Do not use treated wood or treat the finished 2-bin unit with wood preservatives or paint of any kind. Preservatives can leach into your compost. If you can afford the extra expense, using cedar for all bin parts will extend the life of the bin.



# Materials

## Wood:

- 5 12' cedar 2x4"s
- 6 3' 2x2"s
- 1 6' 2x2"s
- 1 9' cedar 2x6"s
- 6 6' cedar 1x6"s

## Tools:

- Hand saw or circular power saw
- Drill with 1/8" and 1/2" bits
- Screwdriver
- Hammer
- Tin snips
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- 3/4" socket or box wrench, or adjustable wrench
- Carpenter's square
- Safety glasses
- Ear protection

## Misc:

- 1 6 feet of 36" wide 1/2" hardware cloth
- 9 1/2" carriage bolts, 4" long
- 9 washers and 9 nuts for carriage bolts
- 3 lbs. of 16d galvanized nails
- 1/2 lb. of 8d galvanized casement nails
- 1 lb. of poultry wire staples
- 1 12' sheet of PVC roofing
- 6 2' lengths of wiggle moulding
- 32 gasketed aluminum nails for corrugated fiberglass roofing
- 2 3" zinc plated hinges for lid
- 4 flat 4-corner braces with screws
- 2 flat 3" T-braces with screws

# Construction Details

## Build Dividers:

Cut two 31½" and two 36" pieces from three 12' 2x4"s. Butt end nail the four pieces into a 35"x36" section. Check to make sure each divider is square. Repeat for the other two sections. Cut three 37" long sections of the hardware cloth, bend back edges 1". Stretch hardware cloth across each frame, check for squareness of the frame and staple screen tightly into place every 4" around edge.

## Set Up Dividers:

Set up dividers parallel to one another 3' apart. Measure and mark center for the inside divider. Cut four 6' pieces out of two 12' 2x4"s boards, two of which will be used as baseboards. Place two of them on top of dividers and measure the position for the inside divider. Mark a center line for each divider on the 6-foot 2x4. With each divider, line up the centerlines and make the base board flush against the outer edge of the divider. Drill a 1/2" hole through each junction centered 1" from the inside edge. Secure base boards with carriage bolts, but do not tighten yet. Turn the unit right side up and repeat the process using the third 6' long 2x4" along the top/back of the bin. Using a carpenter's square or measuring between opposing corners, make sure the bin is square, then tighten all bolts securely. Fasten a 6' long piece of hardware cloth securely to the backside of the bin with staples every 4" around the frame.

**Front Slats and Runners:**

Nail three 36" 2x2"s, centered left-to-right, to the front of the three 2x4" dividers. Cut three 36" 2x6"s and nail them, centered, to the front of the three 2x2"s you just attached, to make runners for the front slats. Cut the 1x6" cedar boards into slats 31¼" long and slide in the grooves behind the 2x6" runners, per illustration.

**Fiberglass Lid:**

Cut three 32½" 2x2"s and lay out into position on ground with the 6-foot 2x2"s (front of lid) and the last 6' 2x4" (back of lid) to form the lid frame as illustrated. Make sure the frame is square, then screw in corner braces and T-braces on bottom side of the frame. Center lid frame, brace side down on bin structure and attach with hinges. Cut wiggle board to fit the front and back 6' sections of the frame. Pre-drill wiggle board with 1/8" drill bit and nail with 8d casement nails. Cut fiberglass to fit flush with front and back edges. Overlay pieces at least once channel wide. Pre-drill fiberglass and wiggle board for each nail hole. Nail on top of every third hump with gasketed nails.

For additional composting information, consult the *Composting at Home* guide available through the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or <http://gardenhotline.org>.

Plan designed by Seattle Tilth Master Composter Kirsten DeLara.

**Learn More About Natural Yard Care**

Contact the Garden Hotline with your garden questions!

We can send you booklets

"Composting at Home" or "Building Healthy Soil."

[help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org) (206) 633-0224 [gardenhotline.org](http://gardenhotline.org)

