

Welded Wire Bin for Compost

A **DIY welded wire bin** is **easy** to assemble and the materials are **inexpensive**. Held closed with simple twist ties or string, it is simple to disassemble and move the bin when it is time to harvest your finished compost. Welded wire is strong enough to stand up without posts or stakes.

Tools and Materials needed:

Welded Wire

- 1" x 2" mesh
- 3' tall
- 14 gauge is ideal
- 10' yields a 3' diameter bin
- 13' yields a 4' diameter bin

4 Ties

Twist ties, wire (coated lasts longer),
nylon string (cotton may rot)

Wire Cutters

Many hardware stores sell welded wire by the foot, so cutters are only needed if cutting from a roll

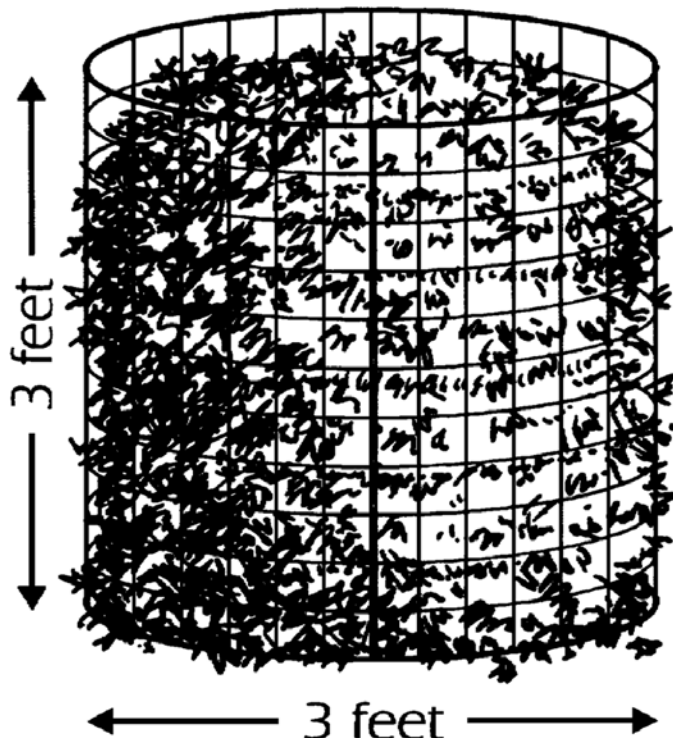
Assembly:

- Roll into a cylinder, overlapping the ends by at least 6"
- Secure the cylinder closed with the ties of your choice - one near the top and one near the bottom on both sides where the wire overlaps
- Place the bin where you will use it, and position a stockpile of brown materials within reach
- That's it!

WARNING: The cut ends of fencing are **SHARP!** Use gloves or snip the ends close to a crosswire and file the edges. You can also bend longer ends down parallel to the crosswire, using pliers.

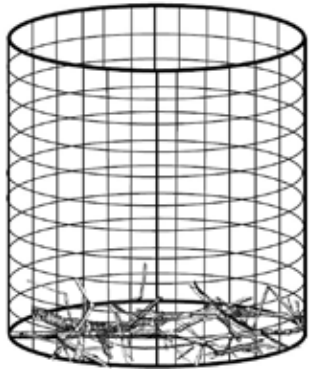
TIPS about welded wire:

- This type of garden or livestock fencing is made of rectangular, metal mesh.
- 1"x2" mesh works well. The larger, 2"x4" mesh works, but particles will fall through. A smaller, 1/2"x1" mesh size offers extra protection against animal pests.
- The smaller the mesh size, the more expensive the wire.
- 3' tall is ideal; shorter will not give your compost the mass it needs to heat up. A bin taller than 3' will be hard to reach inside and work in.
- 14 gauge is a medium duty thickness. Thinner wire (higher number) is more likely to bend and is therefore less sturdy.

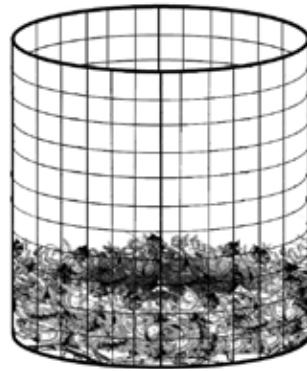


Lasagna Layering Technique for Easy Composting

The first time you set up your bin...



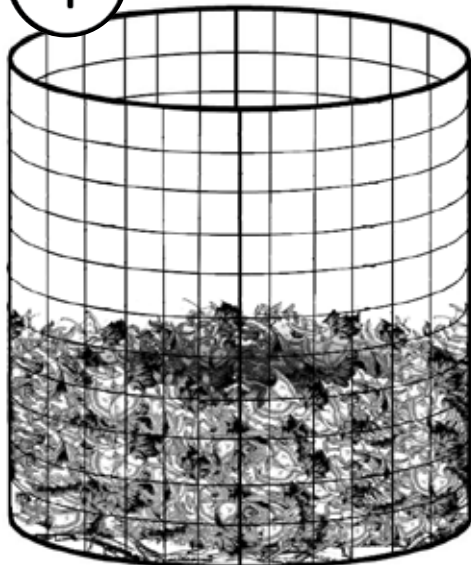
Start with a layer of sticks and stalks (8-10")



Next, add a layer of BROWNS in a bowl shape

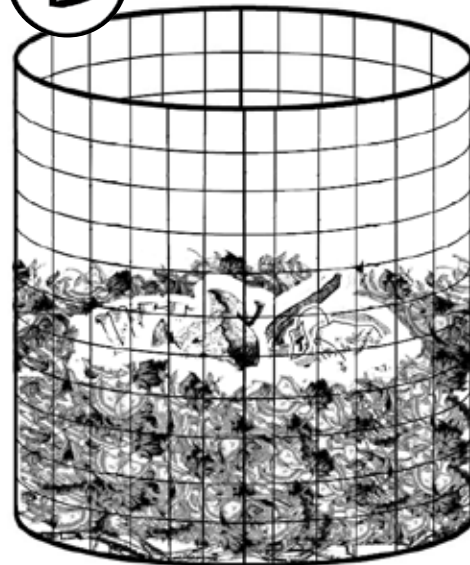
Every time you compost...

①



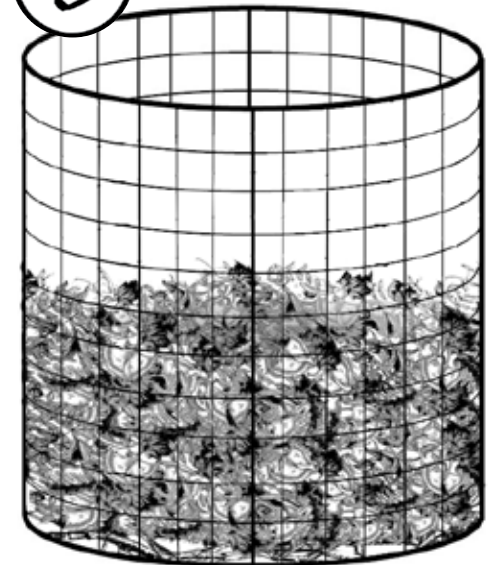
Make sure your BROWNS are in a bowl shape

②



Add a 1 or 2" layer of GREENS

③



Cover with BROWNS until no food shows, return to Step 1



**LOVE
YOUR
COMPOST!**
Master Composters of Tompkins County



**RECYCLING AND
MATERIALS
MANAGEMENT
OF TOMPKINS COUNTY**

**Cooperative Extension
Tompkins County**