

**COMPOST SYSTEMS: 2011**  
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<b><u>TYPE</u></b>	<b><u>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</u></b>	<b><u>COMPOST SIZE</u></b>	<b><u>COMMENTS</u></b>
Open top bin	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	3' x 3' x 3' to 5' x 5' x 5'	Easy top access. Bottom or mid-level harvesting. Layering or mixing yield good results. Slower with layering. Bury food scraps in the center. Easy to roll-mix with closed, round bottom.
Covered top bin	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	3' x 3' x 3' to 5' x 5' x 5'	Easy top access. Bottom or mid-level harvesting. Layering or mixing yield good results. Slower with layering. Bury food scraps in the center. Cover with 1" layer of brown. Easy to roll-mix with closed, round bottom.
Contained heap or pile	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	3' x 3' x 3' to 5' x 5' x 5'	Easy top access. Bottom or mid-level harvesting. Layering or mixing yield good results. Slower with layering. Bury food scraps in the center. Cover with 1" layer of brown. Contained by concrete blocks, chicken wire, hardware cloth, used freight pallets or other fencing material with 12" diameter, depression in the top.
Open heap or pile	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	3' x 3' x 3' to 5' x 5' x 5'	Easy top access. Bottom or mid-level harvesting. Layering or mixing yield good results. Slower with layering. Bury food scraps in the center. Cover with 1" layer of brown.
Windrow	At least ¼ acre	4' x 4' x 6' pyramid or longer	Important — maintain slopes to assure heated inner core. Easy top access. Bottom or mid-level harvesting. Layering or mixing yield good results. Slower with layering. Bury food scraps. Cover with 1" layer of brown.
Sheet tilled "Lasagna-in-the dirt"	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	6" to 12" x 2' x the length of the desired planting bed	In a six to eight inch trench, cover half depth of composting material with soil. Plant through when compost is finished.
Sheet no-till "Lasagna-atop-the dirt"	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	6" to 12" x 2' x the length of the desired planting bed	Spread organic matter over the garden bed. Add water, blood meal or cottonseed meal to hasten decomposition. Plant through when compost is finished.
Hole or pit	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	12" x 18" deep x desired diameter	In a 6" to 8" deep hole, cover half depth of composting material with soil. Plant through when compost is finished.
German (or 'Magic') mound	At least ¼ acre	1' deep with 1' deep inner core x 5' diameter	5' diameter trench with 1' x 1' inner hole within a 1' x 4' outer hole; for composting woody material with alternating layers of sod or soil.
Bucket	Any size	Three 5-gallon buckets, snap-on lids, 1/4 <sup>th</sup> -inch holes around upper half	Coffee grinds, fruit/veggie scraps, dry grass/weeds, shredded paper and dirt. Transfer compost to empty bucket as it finishes. Best for those who can't give the care that worm composting requires. Hastens decomposition when added to cold outdoor pile, for temps below 40°F.
NatureMill Electric Composter	Any size		Continuously makes compost. Use indoors or out. 50 cents a month to run. 10 watts of power. 20" high x 20" deep x 12" wide; 17 lbs \$350-\$430. Must chop scraps to bite size pieces or machine will jam.
The Green Cone System	At least 1/8 <sup>th</sup> acre	27" H, 24" base diameter, 11.5" top diameter	Bury the bottom of the Green Cone & basket about 18" below ground, in direct sun. 1-2 year processing time. No cooking oil/fat, nutshells & seafood, such as oysters & crabs. Will accept other kitchen scraps. Soil must provide good drainage. \$180
All Food Recycling Compost Kit with Bokashi	Any size	16" H x 10 1/2" W x 10" D	5-gallon, food waste bin. Must add Bokashi enzymes at least once a year. Fermentation process. Add finished product to soil.
Tumbler	Townhouse and larger	37" H x 31" W x 26" D to 68" H x 50" W x 40" D	Small tumbler makes compost in 4-6 weeks, large, in 10-14 days. The finer the material, the faster the process. \$200-\$500. Some gardeners have used their original tumbler continuously for more than 15 years.
Worm	Any size	16" x 16" x 21" or taller 5-gallon bucket, snap-on lids	Commercial worm bins are the cleanest & easiest to use & maintain. Use two 5-gallon buckets, snap-on lids to store compost and compost leachate. Follow bin design instructions.