

KIDS for the BAY

A Project of Earth Island Institute

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Everyone is an Environmentalist!

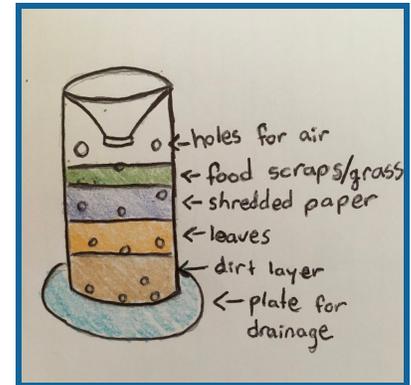
Clever Composting

Activity Summary

Create a simple, easy, fun compost bin at home!

Directions

1. Begin by asking an adult to cut the top off a 2 liter plastic bottle so the top may be inverted to create a funnel for water.
2. Carefully use a push pin or nail to poke holes along the sides and bottom of the bottle. This helps create drainage and air flow. Place the bottle on a plate.
3. Put a layer of soil/dirt (a few handfuls), some leaves, and some shredded paper into the bottle. Use the spray bottle to *lightly* dampen each layer.
4. Add some food scraps and add another handful of soil/dirt. Place the bottle where it will get some sunlight (may be placed outside to avoid decomposing smell).
5. Be sure to mix your compost with a spoon, and lightly spray your compost with water daily!
6. [Optional] record scientific observations every week on the compost. Compost takes time, but it will eventually decompose and create healthy soil for you to use in your garden!



Location

Your yard, a deck, or somewhere indoors at a table. Check with an adult about where is best to set up!

Supplies

- An empty 2 liter plastic bottle, or another large plastic container
- Soil/dirt, fallen leaves, and shredded paper (look around your neighborhood)
- Food scraps (from your kitchen). The smaller they are, the faster they will break down.
- Scissors/knife to cut bottle
- Push pin or nail to make holes
- Plate, spray bottle, and spoon

Additional resources and related activities

- [Making a Homemade Composter! | Full-Time Kid | PBS Parents](#)
- [Make a Composter | Crafts for Kids](#)
- [Teach Kids to Compost: 7 Tips to Get Started](#)

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