



WNRCD

Educational Series

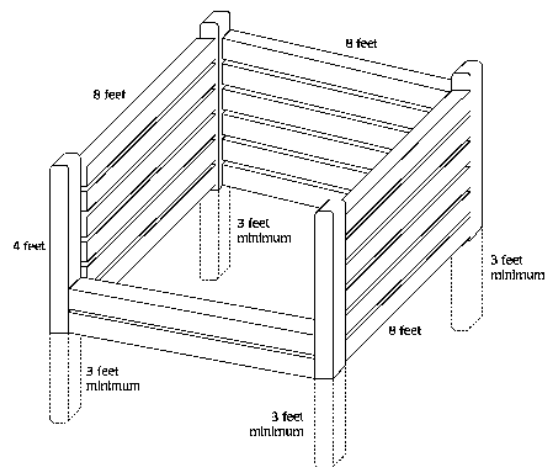
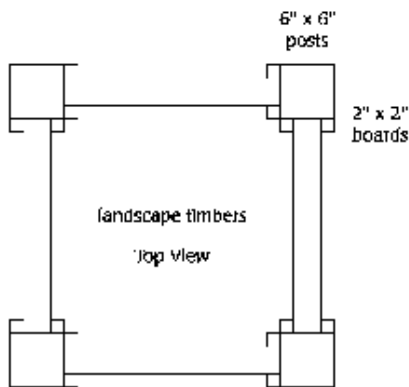


Agriculture Series

Horse Manure Compost Bin Design

Wooden Bins

Wooden bins can be constructed to any dimension to meet a horse owner's needs, this example shows designs for 8ftx8ftx4ft or 4ftx4ftx4ft bins. The bins can be built stand alone, or in rows of two or three.



The quantities of materials vary depending on bin size and whether bins are built adjacent or stand-alone:

Materials:

- 8'x6"x6" posts
- 8'x2"x2" boards
- 8'x8"x2" landscape timbers
- Landscape fabric
- Deck screws

	(1) 8'x8'x4' Bin	(2) 8'x8'x4' Bins	(3) 8'x8'x4' Bins	(1) 4'x4'x4' Bin	(2) 4'x4'x4' Bins	(3) 4'x4'x4' Bins
8' 6"x6"posts	4	6	8	4	6	8
4'x 2"x2" boards	16	32	48	16	32	48
8'x8"x2" landscape timbers	48	84	120	24	42	60
3" Deck Screws	80	100	130	80	100	130
Landscape fabric	4 rolls of 300ft landscape fabric will be provided for the entire project					

Wooden Bin Building Instructions

- Identify the four corners of each bin, which is determined by the bin dimensions: 8'x8'x4' or 4'x4'x4' and number of bins to be built adjacent to each other.
- Dig post holes. Post holes will be 2'-3' deep.
- Insert an 8'x6"x6" post at each corner hole and stabilize. The corner posts are treated wood and must be wrapped in landscape fabric.
- Cut 8'x2"x2" boards in half to 4'x2"x2". These boards will be used to make slats for the landscape timbers.
- Using the deck screws, attach two 4' x 2" x 2" boards vertically to each side of the posts as demonstrated in the photograph below. These boards will act as guides and will hold the sides of the compost bin (landscape timbers) in place. A stand-alone compost bin will have four boards attached to each post on the inside corners of the post. If an adjacent bin is installed, six boards will be attached to the post.



- For 8'x8'x4' bins: slide the 8' x 2" x 8" timbers between the slats created from the mounted boards, stacking the timbers into place. Small sections of wood can be inserted between each board to create some space between each slat, for the purpose of allowing air to flow more freely into the pile and speed up the composting process.
- For 4'x4'x4' bins: cut the 8'x2"x8" timbers in half and slide into place
- If multiple bins are to be installed together, build out from one bin. The wall of the first constructed bin will be shared with the adjacent bin. Follow the steps above for adjacent bins.

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is one of 14 conservation districts throughout Vermont. It encompasses all of Chittenden and Washington County as well as parts of Orange County (Orange, Williamstown and Washington). The District relies on grants and individual donations to complete its conservation work. The WNRCD focuses its resources on completing conservation projects within the areas of agricultural assistance, forestland enhancement, urban conservation and watershed stewardship. For more information on Conservation initiatives within the District, please visit: www.winooskinrcd.org