



SCAVENGING FOR HIDDEN TREASURE

BUILD A COMPOST BIN FOR YOUR R-CENTER

Did You Know?

Compost is organic material, such as food scraps and leaves, that has been broken down into a nutrient-rich soil.

Activity:

We can reduce food waste by creating simple new habits for ourselves – like composting! It's super easy, effective, and helps save food and our planet. For this activity, you'll be hunting for treasure and supplies to create your very own compost bin for your R-Center. Happy hunting!

Time: 1 day or less

What You'll Need:

Treasure Map to find the following items in your R-Center:

Large plastic bin with lid, such as 12-gallon storage bin or trash can

Drill or a tool to poke holes in your bin

Shredded newspaper

Soil

Dried leaves and/or pine needles

Food scraps

Water

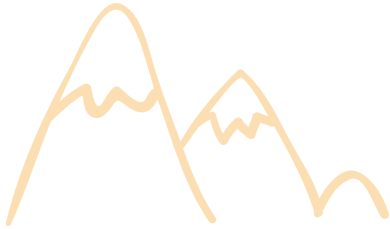
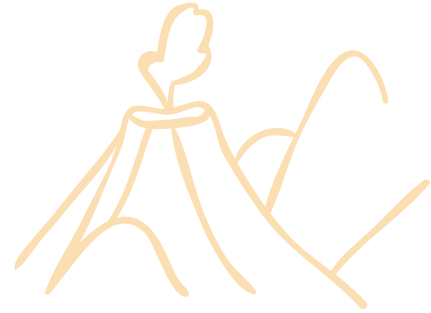


FOOD IS TREASURE
Discovering the Secret Ingredient



LET'S GET STARTED:

- 1.** Use your treasure map to find each of the items above. Once you have everything you need, follow the instructions below to build your compost bin!

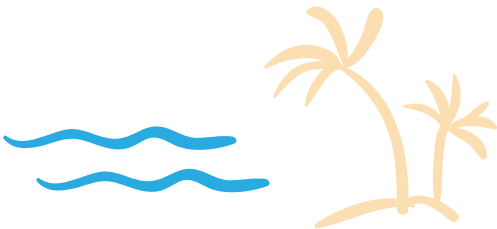


2.

Poke/cut out 8-10 holes about 1-2 inches apart in the bottom of the bin and four holes on each side of the bin. This will let air move around the bin to help things decompose.

3.

Put the shredded newspaper into the bin, filling it up one-fourth of the way.



4.

Add soil until the bin is halfway full. Top the soil with a layer of dried leaves or pine needles. Always keep brown material such as this in your bin to keep it from smelling.

5.

Bury food scraps a little ways into the brown material. To do this, roll your bin around (with the lid on) or mix it with a stick.

6.

Spray the compost with just enough water to get things damp but not soaking wet and place the lid on. Be sure to keep your bin outside in the grass or inside of another bin without holes. If you choose the latter, make sure you dump out the bottom bin every few days to keep liquids out and prevent attracting any bugs.

7.

Whenever you have a meal at the R-Center, remember to add any remaining food scraps to the compost bin and remember to add the same amount of soil and leaves!

8.

Every four to five days, stir the contents with a stick to keep things mixed up. Always keep the compost damp.



TAKING IT FURTHER:

Share your compost bin on social media using #PlanEatCare.

Start a community compost program: Now that you know how to make a compost bin, consider creating one for your home or recruit a few friends to make them for your entire neighborhood.

- **Think about:**
- Where to put the bins? Schools? Restaurants? Other community centers?
- Is this place easy to get to? Does it have access to water?
- Who will feed it? Consider local residents and restaurants.
 - Do they understand what is allowed in the compost and why? If not, create a mini flyer to post near each bin!
- How will you pick up? How often and how will it be transported?
- Is it allowed? Check into local regulations. Some regions have strict regulations around waste hauling. Do you need an operating license?

References:

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What can go in your compost bin

gardeningknowhow.com/composting/ingredients/what-can-you-compost

Ingenious DIY Compost Bin Ideas.

backyardgrowers.com/23-ingenious-diy-compost-bin-ideas

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