# How to Build Your Own In Ground Compost Station

**Step 1 | Build the Compost Station Frame**

With our compost station, we built a frame with 2×10 boards. Determine the location of the compost station and get the ground as level as possible using a rake. Create a square using the 2×10 pressure treated lumber and screw them together with decking screws.

If you want the compost frame to look a little more finished, you can angle the corners and connect them. We decided to just butt one end of a board to another to create a 90-degree angle. This works just as well but is not as pretty as a finished corner.

This frame size allows two 55 gallon bins to comfortably fit within the frame. Once the frame is in place, use a shovel to dig the two holes for the bins to sit in. Ideally, both would be slightly raised above the ground, but you may run into obstructions. Unfortunately, we chose a location in our yard with a very strong root system that we could not completely dig out. Our bins would only be buried halfway in the ground, which was lined up perfectly with the top of the frame.

**Step 2 | Drill Holes in the Bin**

Make a mental note or physically mark (probably the smartest option) of how far your bins will be buried in the ground. Use a thick drill bit (we used a 1/2 inch) and drill holes below this line on all four sides of your bin. This will allow worms to move in and out of the bin to speed up the composting process. We actually drilled holes a little higher than where they would be buried and ended up adding dirt around the top half of the bins inside the frame.

All of the holes should be covered by dirt. If there are exposed holes, it can slow down the composted process by allowing airflow. It can also allow odors to escape and attract pests.

**Step 3 | Install the Bins**

Use your shovel to dig the hole and get the compost bins in place. You will want the top of the bins to be at the height of the frame or just below. Fill in dirt and around the bins so that the holes are covered.

**Step 4 | Add Starter Soil & Worms**

In the first tub, add some soil and compostable material. Add a bag of worms to begin the composting process. These will be your workers at the compost station. They will eat the food and turn it into compostable material faster than natural decomposition.
You are ready to compost! Be sure to keep the lids on the bins to prevent pests and trap heat. You will want to periodically stir the compost to help the materials break down. We have kept our rolling bin as a third chamber to decompose materials. This gives us lots of space to add our kitchen and yard scraps.

I also recommend getting a compost bucket to keep under your sink to capture the kitchen scraps. Check out this helpful resource that is all about what you can add to your composting bin. Happy composting!

**Compost Station Supply List**

- Shovel
- Rake
- 55 Gallon Black Bin (we used two)
- Cordless Drill
- Thick Drill Bit (1/2" or similar size)
- Cordless Impact Driver
- Deck Screws (we used what we had in our garage – you want them to be weather resistant)
- Star Bit (for the deck screws)
- Worms (optional)
- 2” x 10” Pressure Treated Lumber

Note: You do not have to do the frame, you can simply dig the bins into the ground in your garden. Be mindful of the location, the worms will overheat if in direct sunlight. The north side of a building is a great location for these.

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