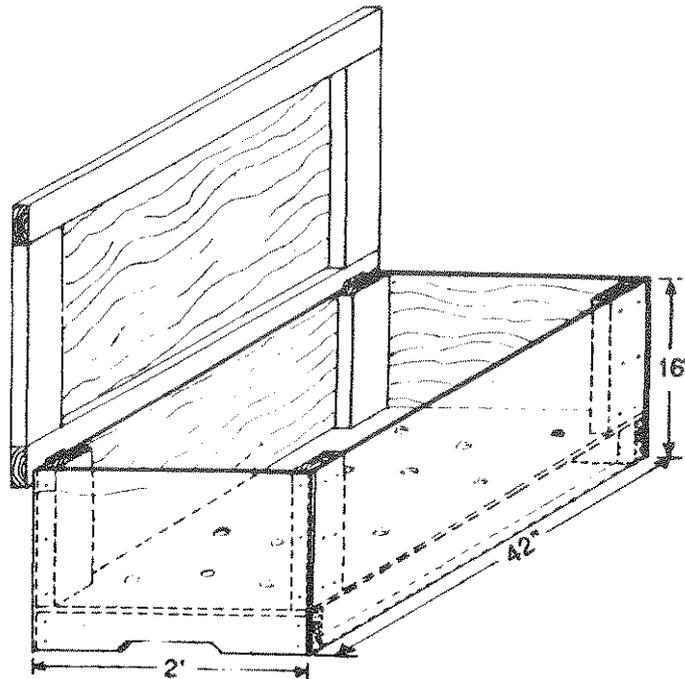


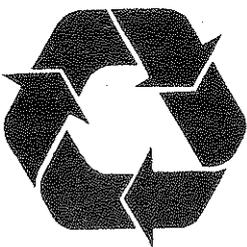
1 - 2 - 3 WORM COMPOSTING BIN



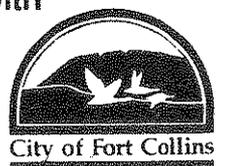
This system is designed for composting vegetable food wastes using red worms. Food wastes and worms are "bedded" in shredded and moistened newspaper, cardboard, peat or brown leaves. The worms turn both food wastes and bedding into a high-quality compost suitable for use on house plants, seedlings or general garden use.

To maintain this system simply rotate burial of food wastes throughout the bin. Every 3-6 months compost should be moved to one side of the bin and new bedding added to the empty half. At this time start burying wastes in the new bedding only. Within one month worms will populate the new bedding, finished compost may be harvested and the rest of the bin can be rebedded. During the winter worm bins should be kept in a cool indoor space such as a basement or warm garage to avoid freezing. A properly maintained worm bin is odorless. Bins may be placed in a shady outdoor space the remainder of the year. Flies may be controlled by placing a sheet of plastic over the bedding.

This bin can be built for about \$35 with new wood and hardware, or less using recycled materials. Worm bins can also be made from boxes or other containers. Any worm bin must have drainage in the bottom and a tight fitting lid to keep moisture in and pests out. A starter batch of worms can be purchased at a small additional cost, or find some in an old compost pile! For more information see Mary Appelhof's book, Worms Eat My Garbage, available at the Fort Collins Public Library or local bookstores.



For more information on composting and recycling, contact the City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Division at 221-6600. We thank King County, Washington, for their assistance with this project. This flyer was printed on recycled paper.



Materials:

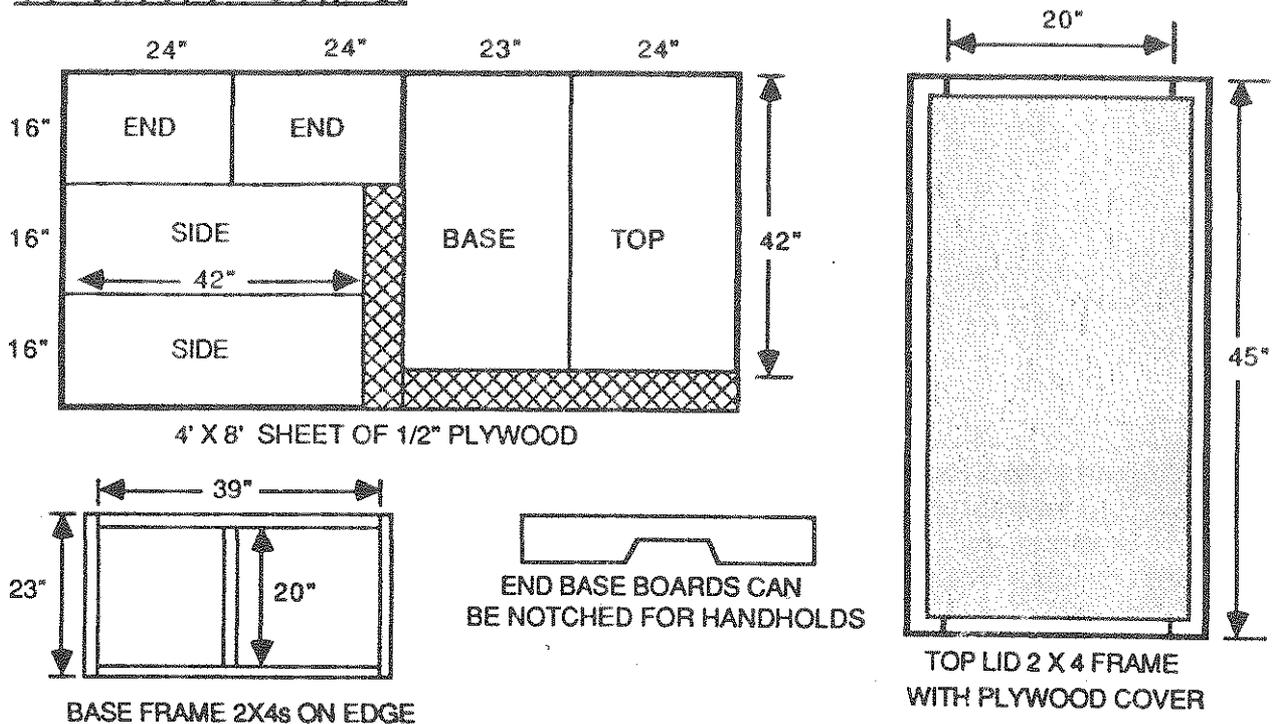
- 1 1/2" treated sheet of plywood
- 1 12 foot 2x4
- 1 16 foot 2x4
- 2 lbs. 6d galvanized nails
- 1/2 lb. 16d galvanized nails
- 2 galvanized door hinges

Tools:

Tape measure, skill saw or rip hand saw, hammer, saw horses, long straight edge or chalk snap line, screwdriver, and drill with 1/2" bit.

Use eye and ear protection.

Construction Details:



Measure and cut plywood as indicated in drawing above. Cut the 12 foot 2x4 into five pieces: two 39", two 23", and one 20" long. Nail the 2x4s together on edge with two 16d nails at each joint as illustrated in the Base Frame diagram. Nail the plywood base piece onto the 2x4 frame.

Cut four 1 foot lengths out of the 16 foot 2x4. Take each plywood side piece and place a one foot 2x4 under each of its ends so that the 2x4 is flush with the top and side edges of the plywood, and nail the boards into place. Nail the side pieces onto the base frame. To complete the box, nail the ends onto the base and sides. To reinforce the box make sure there is a nail staggered at least every 3 inches wherever plywood and 2x4s meet. Drill twelve 1/2" holes through the bottom of the box for drainage.

To build the lid, take the remaining 12 foot 2x4 and cut it into two 45" pieces and two 20" pieces and lay them flat, short pieces on the inside as indicated in diagram above, so that the plywood top is inset from the edges of the 2x4 by 1-1/2" all the way around the perimeter. Nail the plywood onto the 2x4 securely. Place the hinges on the backside of the box at both ends on the 2x4s, and on the under side of the 2x4 lid frame, so that the lid will stand upright when opened.