



Project Idea: Make a Tabletop Compost Bin

Recommended for Step 3: Create for a Community, Choice 3: Create for the planet

Setup: One way to help your community and the planet is to cut down on trash. One way to help plants grow is to give them healthy soil. Compost does both! **Compost** is a mixture of leaves and food scraps that is used to improve garden soil. A tabletop compost bin can help you to collect and store food scraps, such as veggie peels and fruit rinds.

Materials needed:

- Empty 2-liter bottle with cap OR plastic container with a lid (like a quart-sized takeout container)
- Newspaper or junk mail
- Materials for decorating, such as stickers or duct tape
- Nail
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Blank label
- Markers
- Veggie and fruit scraps (optional)

Activity:

1. If you're using a 2-liter bottle, carefully cut the top off the bottle about 3 inches below the neck. Save the top and the cap.
2. Carefully use the nail to make 5–6 small holes in the upper neck of the bottle or in the lid of the plastic container to let air in.
3. Place your container on top of newspaper or scrap paper and trace around the bottom.
4. Cut out the paper and put it in the bottom of the container. This will soak up any juices from the scraps and make the bin easier to clean. Paper is also good for compost!
5. Design an instruction label for the side of the bin (not the lid) with the following information: Use this bin to collect food waste like eggshells, fruit rinds, coffee grounds, tea leaves, vegetable peels, paper towels, and napkins. DO NOT include meat or dairy scraps. You can then add your scraps to an outside compost bin OR make compost by adding leaves, paper, and soil directly to this bin.
6. Decorate the bin and add features, such as a handle made of duct tape.

► **For more fun:** Collect fruit and veggie scraps and make your own compost.