

A COMPOST SIFTER is a large and sturdy framed screen used to harvest finished compost from your compost bin for use in your gardens.

Note: Exact measurements may vary according to your materials. Be sure to take measurements as you go and adjust cuts and dimensions if necessary.

MATERIALS FOR ONE COMPOST SIFTER

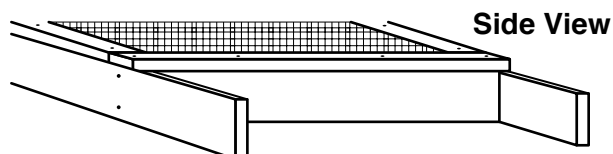
- 12' of 1x4 wood
- 9' of 1x2 wood
- 30" of hardware cloth (for the screen): 24" wide, 1/2" mesh, 19 gauge (one 10' roll makes four sifters when cut roll into 30" lengths)

TOOLS

- Tape measure
- Saw (hand saw, jig saw, or circular saw)
- Hammer and nails
- Drill and screws (optional)
- Staple gun and staples
- Wire cutters
- Sandpaper
- Paint and brushes (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut boards using saw:
 - 1x4 piece: Two 4' long pieces and two 22.5" long pieces
 - 1x2 piece: Two 27" long pieces and two 24" long pieces
2. Cut hardware cloth using wire cutters: 24" wide x 30" long
3. Nail/screw the 1x4 boards together in a rectangle shape with handles (see diagram)
4. Optional: Paint and decorate the wooden frame and 1x2 pieces
5. Staple screen to the rectangular frame
6. Nail the 1x2 cover boards over the screen and staples
7. Sand any rough edges
8. Hammer down or cut any protruding screen points
9. Now you are ready to sift your finished compost and add it to your garden soil!



HOW TO USE YOUR COMPOST SIFTER

1. Place the compost sifter over a wheelbarrow. Have two people work together to use the compost sifter; each person will hold onto the two handles on the short sides of the sifter.
2. Shovel the compost onto the screen and move the compost sifter back and forth horizontally over the wheelbarrow. Large pieces of un-composted material will be separated from the finished compost, which will collect in the wheelbarrow below.
3. Add the large un-composted pieces to an active compost pile so they will inoculate the new pile with beneficial microorganisms and continue to decompose.
4. Continue the process until the desired amount of compost has been harvested.
5. Use your screened, finished compost to amend your garden beds before planting or periodically as plants grow. The finished compost may also be used as potting soil for seeds and transplants.

