

Case Study – Dog Waste Composting

Building a backyard septic-style dog waste composter: one resident’s experience

In April 2007, a GVRD staff member constructed a composter, following the directions on the [City Farmer website](#), and advice from dog waste compost users.

Step 1: Choose a site

- Good drainage
- Exposure to sunlight
- Away from vegetable garden and streams



Step 2: Select a bin

Use an old garbage bin or a tub. Make holes in the bottom for drainage. In this case, a neighbour offered a spare compost bin made of plastic mesh.

Step 3: Dig the hole

Dig the hole so that the bin can sit in it, flush with the surface. Make the hole 5cm wider than the bin, to allow room for backfilling with gravel. Allow for 5 to 10cm of gravel below the bin too.



Step 4: Backfill with gravel

Place gravel below and around the bin for drainage.

Note: the two large stones are temporarily used to keep the bin steady during backfilling. They will be removed before use.

Step 5: Replace topsoil

Clean up the site by replacing top soil, seeding or planting around the bin.



Step 6: Add dog waste

Step 7:

Add septic starter

Use one envelope to start, and add one each month or so as the compost develops. The starter comes in envelopes.



Note: Compost activity will be low in winter when the weather is cooler.



Step 8: Put the lid on

Add more dog waste daily. This composter should last for years.

