

Green wheelie bin to home composter conversion



You will need:

- A wheelie bin – we had one with a 240-litre capacity
- Water butt tap (optional) – available in garden centres and DIY stores
- 2 hinges – 101mm light tee hinges
- Small bolts – 18 * 12mm M5 bolts
- A sliding Tower bolt (for a door or gate)

Tools:

- Drill
- Drill bits – 25mm spade bit (for the tap), 5mm
- Screwdriver and small spanner
- Jigsaw



Step 1:



The fluid that is created during the composting process can be used as a plant food. To gain access to this, a tap can be installed close to the bottom of the bin. This means finding a suitable position and drilling a hole for the tap. A 25mm hole drilled using a spade bit was perfect for our tap. It is much easier to do this with the bin laying on its back. However, if the liquid is not required, drain holes should be drilled in the bottom of the bin.

The door position can also be marked. In the example, the door is about 25cm square, but this will depend upon the dimensions of your bin. It is the door that allows the removal of the mature compost.

Step 2:



Having marked the position of the door, use drill a hole in each corner. The purpose of this is to allow access to the jigsaw, so the size of the hole should be slightly larger than the width of the jigsaw blade. Cut out the top and the 2 sides of the door. It may be an idea to leave the bottom edge because it will allow you to fit the hinges first.

Step 3:

Fit the hinges – the ones used in the example are 101mm light tee hinges. Drill the holes and fit with small bolts if you can get them. We used 12mm M5 bolts. You can use screws, but the ends need to be filed down, otherwise they are a potential hazard.



Cut the bottom edge of the door and install the sliding bolt using the M5 bolts.

Step 4:

Install the tap. This is easy to do because the plastic nut on the inside of the bin, is very easy to reach through the new door.

Step 5

In the example, we drilled aeration holes in the sides of the composting bin. This is intended to speed up the composting process.



Start to fill the bin with compostable materials and when the compost is ready, use it to improve the soil in your garden.



Happy gardening!