

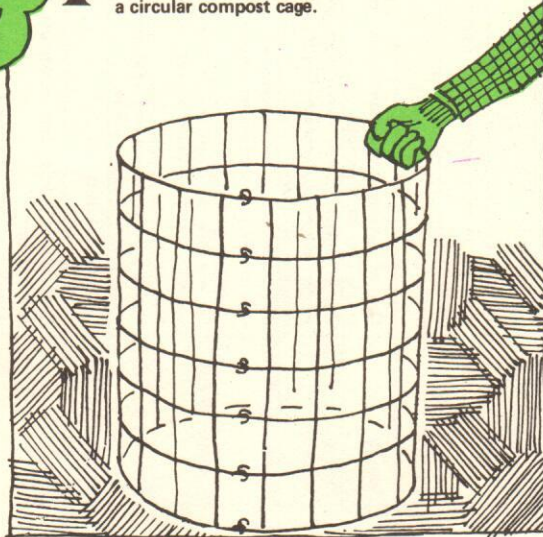
# DICK'S COMPOST ADVENTURES

The simple way to magically turn old leaves, hay, weeds, and garbage into compost.

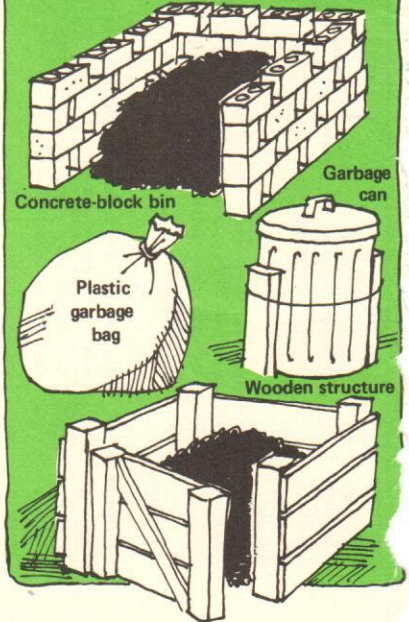
THANKS, I NEEDED THAT.



**1** Take a strip of wire mesh 2 or 3 feet wide by 9 feet long. Fasten the ends together to form a circular compost cage.



Compost organizers can be made of different materials and in various shapes.



**2** Place a 2- to 6-inch thick layer of coarse material, such as leaves, hay, or weeds, in the bottom.



**3** Sprinkle on a large handful of an activator, rich in nitrogen and protein, thoroughly covering the coarse material. You can use alfalfa meal, soybean meal, cottonseed meal, bone meal or other high-protein meal. Commercial fertilizer will not work.

**4** Continue building the compost pile by alternating layers of coarse material and meal.



**5** Moisten pile thoroughly. Don't oversoak. Most failures are due to the pile's being too dry or too wet.



**6** Compact the outer edges of the pile. **IMPORTANT:**

The center must remain loose to allow air to penetrate the pile. The composting process depends upon the meal, coarse material, moisture, and air all coming in contact with each other. If the pile is made correctly, the temperature will reach 140° to 150° F. in several days.

In about one week, turn the pile, mixing the materials together. Fork outside dry material into the center of the pile. Moisten pile again if it's too dry. The heating process will start up again. Compost is ready to use when the pile stops heating in two to three weeks.

**7** To turn pile, remove wire cage by placing your foot on pile and lifting off wire. Fork the material back into empty cage.

