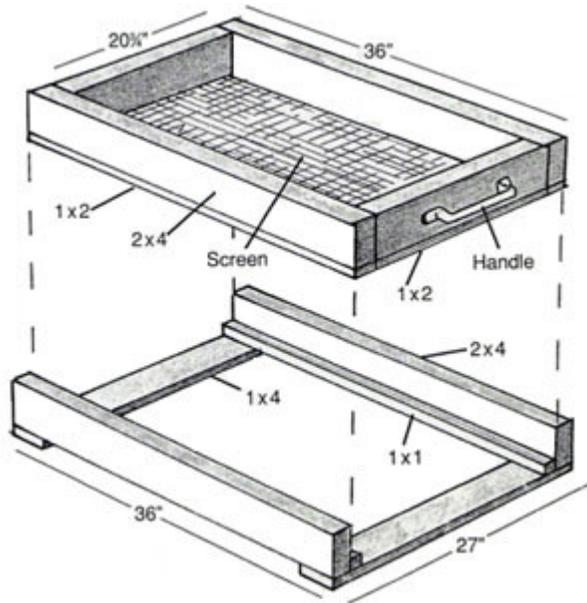


Build Your Own Compost Sifter!!

If you want higher quality compost than that provided by SOCRRA from our huge municipal yard waste composting operation, you will need to sift the compost through a finer screen than SOCRRA can use for full-scale production. From such compost, you can separate out the small twigs, stones, debris, plastic and partially decomposed clumps with this easy sifter to build and use.



Most sifters require you to hold them up as you shake them back and forth. The wood-framed sifter shown here rests on a wheelbarrow and puts less strain on the back and arms.

The sifter consists of two parts: a frame that straddles most wheelbarrows (length-wise or sideways), and a tray with a bottom made of metal screening. You load the tray with an inch or so of compost, vigorously slide it back and forth on the frame, then dump the leftovers from the tray after the sifted compost has fallen into the wheelbarrow.

You can use pine, cedar or pressure-treated wood. You'll need:

- 6 feet of 1"x1" lumber
- 10 feet of 1"x2" lumber
- 5 feet of 1"x4" lumber
- 16 feet of 2"x4" lumber
- 46 #6 2-inch drywall screws
- 8 #10 3 1/2" drywall screws
- 1 24"x36" piece of galvanized metal screen (1/2" or 1/4" mesh)
- Galvanized 14-gauge staples
- 2 sturdy metal handles
- Candle

Cut the wood according to the dimensions in the drawings. Assemble the frame by screwing the 1-by-1s flush to the bottom of the inside face of the 2-by-4s with the 2-inch screws (pre-drilling will help prevent splitting; countersink heads). Screw the two 1-by-4 crosspieces to the bottom of the 2-by-4s. The frame should be 24" wide measuring from inside to inside, just above the 1-by-1s, so the screened tray can ride on top of the 1-bys.

Screw the tray's 2-by-4 side and end pieces together using 3 1/2-inch screws. Cut the screen to size with tin snips and secure it to the bottom of the 2-by-4s with galvanized staples. Screw the 1-by-2s to the tray's bottom, and fasten a handle to each end. The tray should be 24" wide, outside to outside, to fit on top of the 1-bys of the frame.

Sand the wood surfaces and seal with polyurethane, Thompson's water sealer, or paint if you feel the need to; or simply leave unfinished and get back to gardening! The final step is to rub a candle on the bottom of the tray and the tops of the frame 1-by-1's so the tray slides easily.

Designed by Peter O. Whittey & Bud Stuckey: http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/public_works/compost_screens.asp
See it in action at: <http://www.nifty-stuff.com/compost-sifter-screen-sieve.php>

Available for \$80 as shown above but with fixed 36" legs for a sturdy, free standing operation. Contact Mike Czuprenski at mzczuprenski@socrra.org or 248/288-5150 to place an order.