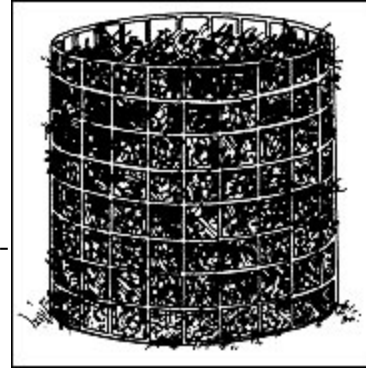


Wire-mesh holding unit

Figure 1

A wire-mesh holding unit.

A wire-mesh holding unit is inexpensive and easy to build out of either galvanized chicken wire or hardware cloth. Non-galvanized chicken wire also can be used, but it will not last as long. Posts provide more stability for a chicken-wire bin, but make the bin difficult to move. A wire-mesh bin made without posts is easy to lift and provides access to finished compost at the bottom of the pile while the compost at the top of the pile is still decomposing.



Materials

- 10-foot length of 36-inch-wide 1-inch galvanized chicken wire, or
- 10-foot length of 1/2-inch-wide hardware cloth (note: This will make a bin with a diameter of 3 feet)
- Heavy wire for ties
- Three or four 4-foot-tall wooden or metal posts (for chicken wire bin)

Tools

- Heavy-duty wire or tin snips
- Pliers
- Hammer (for chicken wire bin)
- Metal file (for hardware cloth bin)
- Work gloves

To build a wire-mesh unit with chicken wire

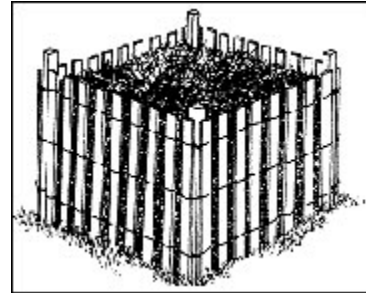
- Fold back 3 to 4 inches of wire at each end of the cut piece to provide a strong, clean edge that will not poke or snag and that will be easy to latch.
- Stand the wire in a circle and set it in place for the compost pile.
- Cut the heavy wire into lengths for ties. Attach the ends of the chicken wire together with the wire ties, using pliers.
- Space wood or metal posts around the inside of the chicken-wire circle. Holding the posts tightly against the wire, pound them firmly into the ground to provide support.

Snow-fence holding unit

Figure 2

A snow-fence holding unit.

A snow-fence holding unit is simple to make. It works best with four posts pounded into the ground for support.



Materials

- Four wooden or metal posts, 4 to 5 feet long (use pressure-treated lumber for the wooden posts)
- Heavy wire for ties
- A 13-foot length of snow fencing, at least 3 feet tall

Tools

- Heavy-duty wire or tin snips
- Pliers
- Sledge hammer
- Work gloves

To build a snow-fence holding unit

- Choose a 3-foot-square site for your holding unit and pound the four wooden or metal posts into the ground 3 feet apart, at the corners of the square.
- Cut the heavy wire into lengths for ties. Attach the snow fence to the outside of the posts with the wire ties, using pliers.
- Attach the fence ends together in the same way, forming a 3-foot-square enclosure.