



HOW TO SET UP AND MANAGE AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL COMPOST SYSTEM



**1. Choose an
ACCESSIBLE & FLAT
AREA with enough
space for 6 compost
bins.**

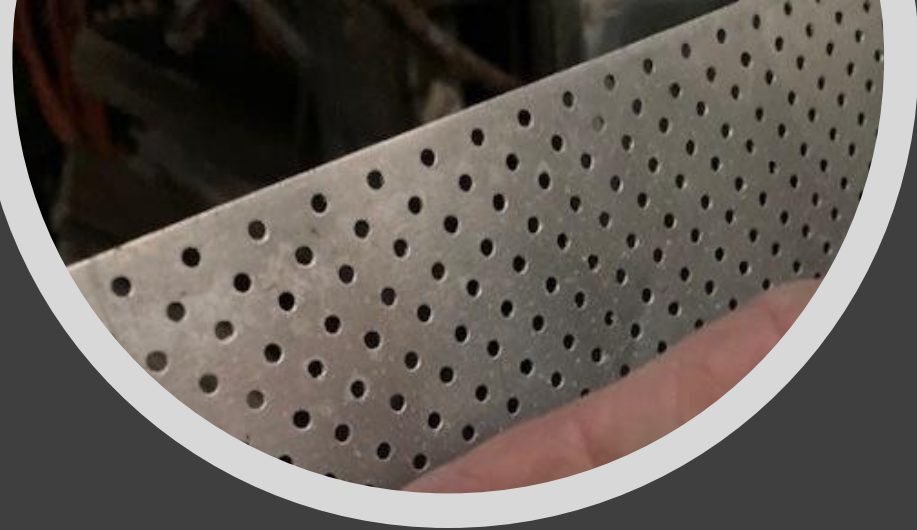
2. Colour coded compost bin lids. A vital idea for schools!



GREEN: food scraps & garden mulch
→ IN



RED: mature compost
→ OUT



3. Rodent control with perforated galvanized metal sheeting to place compost bins on top of.

See Useful Notes section for details on Rodent Control Ideas For Compost Bins.



4. Ensure an adequate space for the storage & delivery of FINE WOODY MULCH.



5. A number of pieces of equipment are needed to maintain an effective compost system.

- Compost tool
- Dolomite lime/Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner
- Hessian sacks or compost blankets
- Manures
- Access to water
- Gloves





6. You will need **COLLECTION BUCKETS WITH LIDS** to collect the food scraps in various places around your school.

e.g. classrooms, staff room, canteen, playgrounds, eating areas etc.



7. To set up your first compost bin, place a layer of **WOODY MULCH in the bottom of the compost bin (hands width - 10-15cm) and water generously.**



8. “SEED” the compost bin with some RICH ALIVE SOIL OR MATURE COMPOST.



9. Now you are ready to start adding food scraps and following the Compost Recipe and ADAM principles to manage your compost system. This compost bin will have a GREEN lid and is a FEED ME or GO BIN.

10. Managing your compost with the **ADAM** principles

- **Aliveness** - worms & microscopic organisms are doing all the work!
- **Diversity** - variety is the spice of life!
- **Aeration** - worms & microscopic organisms breathe!
- **Moisture** - keep the compost heap moist all the time!



ALIVENESS

respect for all life –
seen and unseen



DIVERSITY (variety)

A 50/50 mix
of
food scraps
and

garden mulch



AIR

Mix, mix, mix. **Aeration** is the KEY !!

MOISTURE





Mature Compost

- When this bin is full it needs to mature for 6-8 weeks.
- Change the lid to a RED LID.
- Keep this maturing bin **MOIST AND MIX IT** and add a little dolomite lime and pelletised manure **WEEKLY**.
- When it looks like beautiful rich dark soil it can be added to your school gardens.