



Rodent Control Ideas For Compost Bins

Kimbriki Eco House & Garden

What is the problem?

Rodents can dig down under the bottom rim of the compost bin and tunnel up to where the fresh food scraps are. If rodents are an issue at your home or school, you will need some sort of **barrier** between the ground and the contents of the bin.

What sort of barrier?

Remembering that **aeration** is a key principle of composting, this 'barrier' must allow for **drainage of water**, and also **air movement**.

Option 1: Wire Mesh

Hardware shops have many different types of 'mesh' that can be placed on the ground to stop rodents tunnelling up into the compost heap. Very thin wire mesh will rust quite quickly so it is better to use galvanised mesh as it will resist rusting for a lot longer.

The size of the holes in the mesh must also be small enough to ensure that mice cannot crawl through. We recommend that the size of the holes are no bigger than 1cm square.

Hardware shops sell a mesh called 'Snake & Mouse Mesh' which we recommend as a wire mesh option.

Option 2: Metal sheeting with lots of holes - perforated

We have made some rodent barrier bases at Kimbriki out of flat metal galvanised sheeting. Some of them we have drilled lots of holes in for drainage and aeration, and some we have purchased, made from commercially 'perforated' metal sheeting. **We think this strong perforated metal sheeting is the best solution for rodent control.**

A metal fabricating workshop in Mona Vale, called Letchford Engineering sells full sheets (2.4m X 1.2m) of perforated aluminium sheet metal for approximately \$120 (+ 10% GST), a half sheet for approximately \$60 (+ 10% GST) and a circular sheet for \$65 (+ 10% GST). Aluminium is great as it will not rust like mild steel. Two standard compost bins will sit on one of these sheets. If you want individual circles of perforated steel for each compost bin, Letchfords will cut these for an extra fee.

Address: 5 Taronga Place, Mona Vale. 2103 (or check your local area for similar material).

Phone: (02) 9999 2157 (ask for Campbell Letchford). **Email:** cam.l@westnet.com.au.

Re-use/second hand if possible

It is always good to try and use second hand (re-used) materials if you can. It saves you money and saves earthly resources as well.

You may be able to find something at [Kimbriki Buy Back Centre](#) or at garage sales or council kerbside collections, or other second hand centres.

For more information
 visit www.kimbriki.com.au/eco-house-and-garden/
 email kimbriki@kimbriki.com
 or contact via Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre
 phone 02 9486 3512 Monday to Friday

