

Shared composting facilities in a tenement backcourt



South Seeds installs compost bins which are designed for groups of people to use, in particular residents in a tenement block.

Louis lives in a typical Victorian tenement on the south side and was one of the first residents to get in contact with South Seeds for advice on how to get composting. Louis had already sounded his neighbours out in advance and found out they were keen to get composting, so they could recycle a wider range of waste. Using the shared backcourt was an obvious choice because much of the space was underutilised and it gave everyone a reason to get out in to the backcourt more.



South Seeds can build and install the bin or they can support residents to learn how to build bins. Louis was keen to get involved with building the bin himself. Robin, South Seeds community engagement officer, provided Louis with all the materials and tools required to build a bin, these included some recycled wooden pallets, a roll of chicken wire, a few boards of wood, a piece of ply, hinges and screws. Together during an afternoon, Robin and Louis built the bin.



The body of the bin is constructed from the wooden pallets, these are ideal and allow for air flow through the bin. The pallets are fixed together with screws put in place with power tools, so the structure is robust and will stand the test of time. The inside of the bin is lined with chicken wire, fixed with a staple gun. The chicken wire makes it harder for pests to access the bin and stops any of the contents falling through the gaps between the wooden slats.

The front of the bin is a door made from 6 wooden boards and 3 batons screwed together; this can be lowered so the compost can be turned. The inside of the bin is divided in to two bays with wood and chicken wire. The two bays allow the users to have bays at different stages of the composting process. While one bay may be full of waste which has completely composted and is ready to use, the fresh waste can be put in to the other bay and start breaking down. A piece of plywood is used for the lid, to make the bin pest proof and to keep in heat and moisture.

As well as the bin we supplied the residents using the bin with South Seeds composting manuals to help them understand how to compost correctly along with compost caddies and compostable bin liners to keep in their kitchens.



Since the bin has been completed and installed residents have been recycling everything from fruit and veg peelings, eggshells and tea bags to cardboard and newspapers.

Four months since the bin was installed, the first bay has filled and residents are moving on to depositing waste in the second bay. Louis gets down once a month to give the compost a good turn with a garden fork. Just a few more months and the compost will have broken down enough for Louis to use in his garden beds.



**Find out more about how
to compost on the south side**

If you would like South Seeds to help you start composting,
call Robin on 0141 636 3959 or email robin@southseeds.org