

WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composters are volunteers who have been trained:

- How to take a soil test.
- How to make and use compost.
- How to avoid "Killer Compost".
- How to compost with worms.
- How and where to recycle everything in Lewis County.
- How to divert throw-away items into new, useful items.
- How to teach others to compost and recycle.

To learn more about the program or to sign up for the next volunteer training, contact Debbie Burris at:  
debbie.burris@lewiscountywa.gov.



**REDUCE  
REUSE  
RECYCLE**



## WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composters

351 NW North Street, Chehalis WA 98532  
(360) 740-1212 <http://lewiscountyrecycles.org>

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension Office.



## Plastic Bottle Cold Frame



Turn 12, 16 or 20 ounce plastic bottles into a cold frame to protect early seedlings from cool weather and keep warm weather crops, like tomatoes and peppers, warm and happy. These cold frames will give you a 5° to 20° increase in temperature for your plants.



Tools needed:

- 2x2 lumber cut to make outside frame (You determine size; 2'x3'x1' high is great for kids or low plants. For tomatoes or larger plants 3'x3'x3' is a good size)
- 2 hinges (preferably recycled from another project)
- 1 door handle or knob
- 1 5/8" wood screws (Quantity dependent on the number of stakes. You'll need two per stake. Water bottles are approximately 2 1/2" wide.)
- 2 1/2" screws (16 total for the 2x2 frame)
- A drill to predrill some holes and to insert the screws
- 1/8" to 1/4" thickness scrap or wood or plywood for spacer
- A table saw to rip cedar fence boards (either recycled or rejected) to 5/8" strips. Fence boards are 5/8" thick, producing a stake that fits snugly through the opening in plastic bottles.

1. Start by building a basic framework out of scrap 2x2 lumber. The frame can be sized to fit your needs. Leave the bottom side open. Assemble 3 "windows," 1 for the top, 1 for bottom and 1 for the lid. Use 2 1/2" screws for the frame.



2. Connect two of the "windows" with the uprights. Use 2 1/2" or 3" screws. Place screws off center so they do not interfere with leg installation.

3. Attach hinges to one side of the top piece and a handle on the other side to open and close it.

4. Rip recycled or rejected cedar fence boards into 5/8"x5/8" strips the length of the sides and top.



(A more expensive alternative is bamboo poles that will fit through the bottle openings.)

5. Pre-drill a small hole approximately 1/2" from each end of the strips to avoid splitting when they are screwed to the frame. Use a drill bit slightly larger than the screw for this step.

6. Remove the caps and labels from the bottles. Cut off the bottom part of the bottle at the last indentation.



7. Slide the first bottle onto the bottom of a wood strip with the narrow end just above the pre-drilled hole.

8. Slide the next bottle onto the strip with the narrow end at the top. Tuck the cut end of the bottom into the cut end of the top bottle.

9. Slide remaining bottles onto the strip, overlapping and pushing them firmly together until the top of the last bottle is just below the pre-drilled hole on the top of the strip. Use similar size bottles on each strip.

10. Attach strips to 2x2 frame, adjusting bottle widths to avoid any large gaps.



11. Use spacer to get uniform height of stakes on the frame.