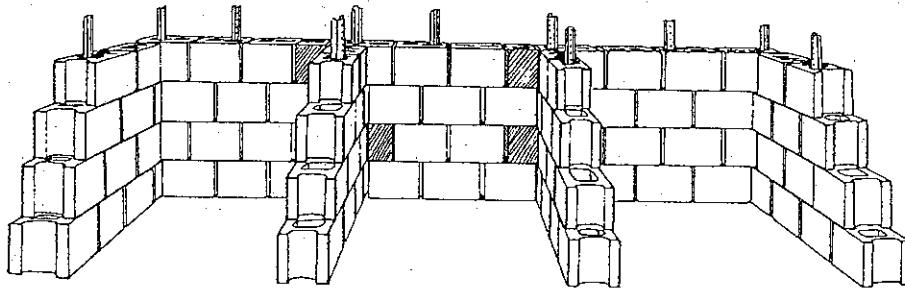


CONCRETE-BLOCK THREE-BIN TURNING UNIT

A concrete-block turning unit looks like three concrete-block holding units in a row. It is sturdy and, if used concrete blocks are available, it is inexpensive to build. The concrete-block unit cannot be conveniently pest-proofed.

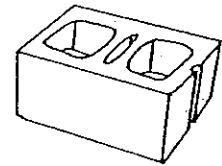
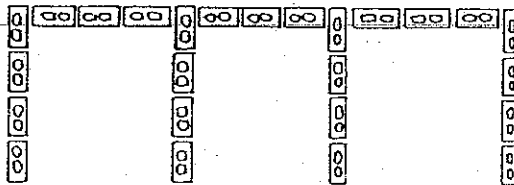


Materials and Tools

- eighty-six concrete blocks
- four concrete half-blocks
- work gloves
- wooden or metal posts to stabilize the bin.

Building a concrete-block turning unit

1. Place twenty-five concrete blocks along the ground at the composting site as shown in the illustration below. Leave about 1/2 inch between each block to let in air.



The illustration above shows a concrete block with a central slit that makes it easy to split into two half blocks. Score each side of the block in the plane of the slit with a chisel. Then use the chisel and a hammer to split the block along the score.

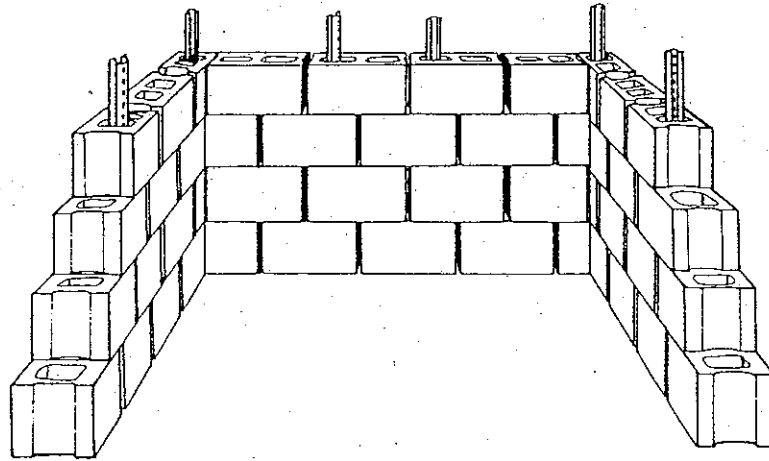
2. Add a second layer of blocks, staggering them to increase stability. Using the turning unit illustration above as a guide, place ten full and two half-blocks along the back wall, and three blocks along each side. Leave about 1/2 inch between each block.
3. Add a third layer of blocks, again staggering them to increase stability. Place twelve blocks across the back of the enclosure and three blocks on each side.
4. The last, and top, layer should have ten full and two half-blocks across the back and two full blocks along each side.
5. To make the unit more stable, drive wooden or metal posts through the holes in the blocks.

CONCRETE-BLOCK HOLDING UNIT

A concrete-block holding unit is sturdy, durable, and easily accessible. If the concrete blocks must be purchased, a concrete-block holding unit may be slightly more expensive to build than the wire-mesh or snow-fence holding units. The concrete-block unit cannot be conveniently pest-proofed.

Materials and Tools

- about forty-six concrete blocks for the first bin
- (optional) about thirty-two blocks for a second bin
- wooden or metal posts to stabilize the bin
- work gloves



Building a Concrete-Block Holding Unit

1. Place five concrete blocks in a row along the ground at the composting site, leaving about 1/2 inch between each block to let in air.
2. Place four concrete blocks in another row along the ground perpendicular to, and at one end of, the first row, forming a square corner; leave about 1/2 inch between each block.
3. In the same way, place four concrete blocks at the opposite end of the first row to form a three-sided enclosure.
4. Add a second layer of blocks, staggering them to increase stability and leaving about 1/2 inch between each block. There should be a layer of four concrete blocks on each of the three walls of the enclosure.
5. Add a third layer of blocks, again staggering them to increase stability, with five blocks across the back of the enclosure and three on each side.
6. The last, and top, layer should have four blocks across the back and three on each side.
7. To make the bin more stable, drive wooden or metal posts through the holes in the blocks.
8. (Optional) If you wish to decrease your composting time, build a second bin next to the first, so that the wastes in one can mature while you add wastes to the other. Use one side wall of the first bin so that you only need to build two additional walls.