



Liquid composter

It's easy to turn a humble wheelie bin into a liquid composter for green garden waste – including those pesky weeds.

WORDS & PHOTOS MARK RAYNER



You will need:

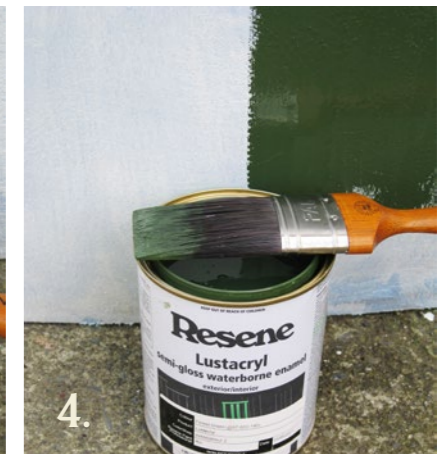
- 20mm angled plastic pipe (sold as a 'Hansen Brand 20mm Male Bend Short')
- 20mm plastic pipe connector (sold as a 'Hansen Brand 20mm Socket')
- 20mm drum tap
- 3mm drill bit
- 7mm drill bit
- 25mm drill bit
- 100mm exterior screws with appropriate screw bits
- Cordless drill
- Electric sander (or sandpaper and a sanding block)
- Hand brush
- Paintbrushes
- Pencil
- Plastic wheelie bin
- Resene Lustacryl tinted to Resene Forest Green
- Resene Smooth Surface Sealer
- Resene Waterborne Woodsman tinted to Resene Cedar
- Sandpaper
- Saw
- Tape measure
- Tongue and groove landscaping timber cut to the following lengths:
 - 4 x 410mm
 - 4 x 500mm
 - 3 x 560mm



Resene

the paint the professionals use

For more on paints and stains phone 0800 Resene (0800 737 363) or visit your Resene ColorShop or www.resene.co.nz



Step One

Lightly sand the exterior of the plastic wheelie bin to 'key' the surface.

Step Two

Remove any sanding residue with a hand brush.

Step Three

Apply one coat of Resene Smooth Surface Sealer to the exterior of the wheelie bin and allow to dry.

Step Four

Apply two coats of Resene Lustacryl tinted to Resene Forest Green to the exterior of the wheelie bin, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.

Step Five

Drill a 25mm hole in the front of the wheelie bin approximately 150mm up from the base. Smooth the edges of this hole with sandpaper and remove any sanding residue.

Step Six

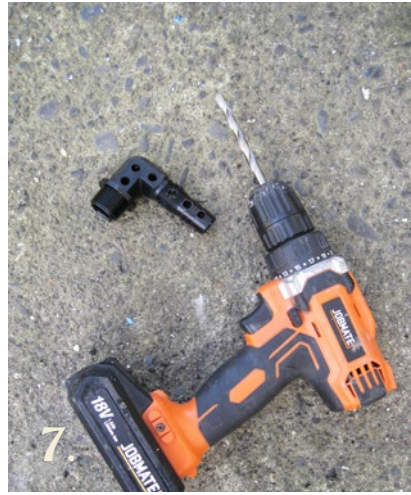
Remove the threaded nut from the 20mm angled plastic pipe.

Step Seven

Drill a series of 7mm drainage holes along the sides of the 20mm angled plastic pipe, as shown – this will help to prevent green waste from clogging the tap. Screw the 20mm connector securely to the threaded end.

Step Eight

Push the 20mm drum tap through the 25mm hole in the wheelie bin and fix it from behind with the 20mm connector, tightening it until the drum tap is secure. Ensure that the angled plastic pipe (on the inside of the wheelie bin) is pointing down.



Step Nine

Measure, mark and cut the tongue and groove landscaping timber to the lengths listed and smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.

Step Ten

Assemble the 410mm and 500mm lengths of timber to form a square base frame, as shown, fixing at each corner with 100mm screws (drilling pilot holes first).



Step Eleven

Fix the three remaining lengths of timber into position, as shown, to form a top on the square base frame. Again, use 100mm screws, drilling pilot holes first.

Step Twelve

Apply two coats of Resene Waterborne Woodsman tinted to Resene Cedar to the wooden base, allowing two hours for each coat to dry. Place the base in position and ensure that it's level, before standing the wheelie bin on top.

The next step

Fill the bin with green waste, such as weeds, lawn clippings, autumn leaves, hedge trimmings, spent flowers and fallen fruit, and then top up with water. After a few weeks you can start to use the compost brew as liquid fertiliser. Keep the bin topped up with water and add more green waste as needed.

To get the look

Mark stained the background fence with Resene Waterborne Woodsman tinted to Resene Warm Kwila.

Handy hint

When fitting the drum tap (step 8), it may be necessary to remove the thin rubber sealing ring (depending on the thickness of the wheelie bin wall) – just ensure the tap is fixed securely enough so that it's watertight.

