

CONSTRUCTION STEPS AND SUPPLIES



Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

COMPOSTER CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES (1 OF 2)

Each person will have:

- 1 Tumbler barrel
55 gallon capacity
- 2 Runners
3ft long
- 2 Vertical Pieces
3 ft long
- 2 Cross Pieces
28 inches long
- 2 Side Braces
varying length



COMPOSTER CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES (2 OF 2)

- Flanges & pipe



- Individual bag with all needed nuts, washers, bolts, screws



- Group bag with drill bits, tape measures, pencils, straight edges, and a chuck key



COMPOSTER CONSTRUCTION TOOLS

Building the Wooden Frame

- Drill holes with 9/64 or 5/32" bit (smallest)
- Drill screws using screwdriver bits



Attaching the Metal Pipe

- Drill holes in vertical wood pieces with 9/32" bit (medium)
- Attach pipe flanges with bolts

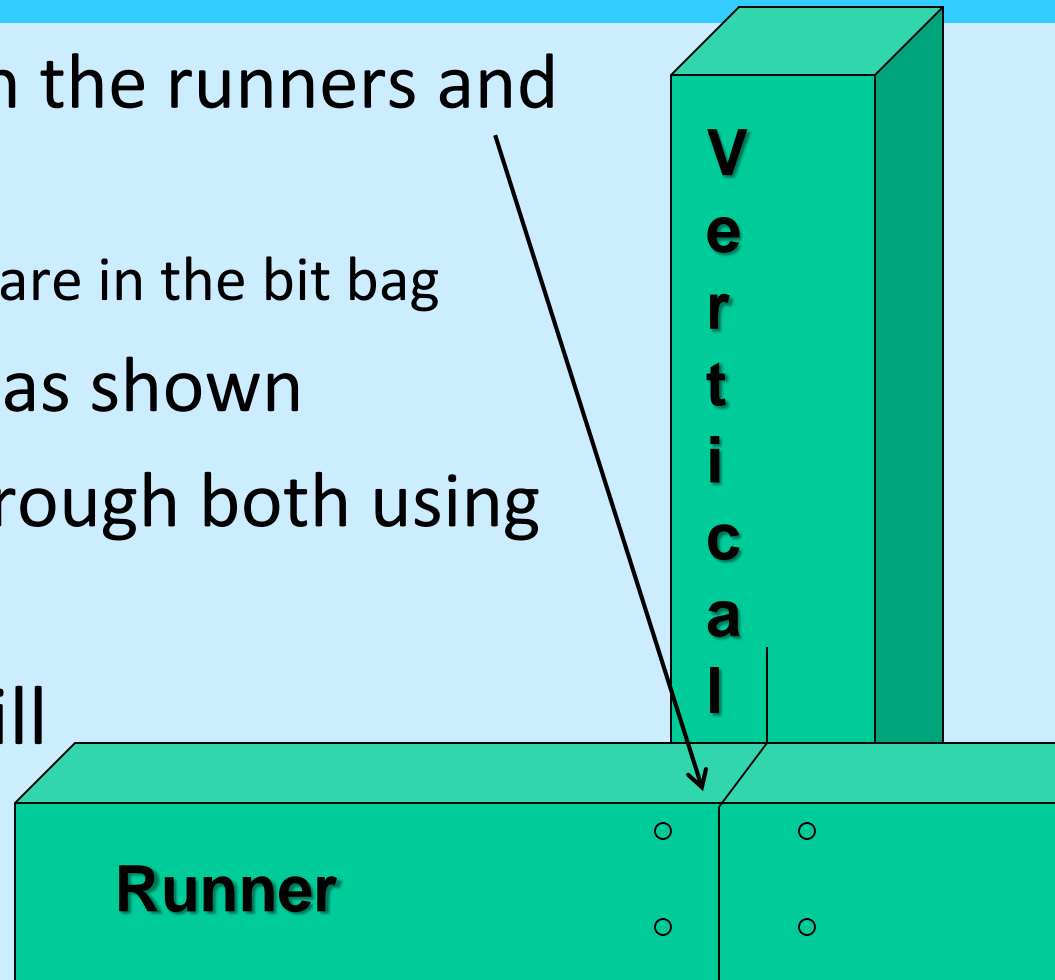
Attaching and Prepping the Barrel

- Drill with 3/8" bit for aeration holes (largest)

STEP ONE

ASSEMBLING THE FRAME

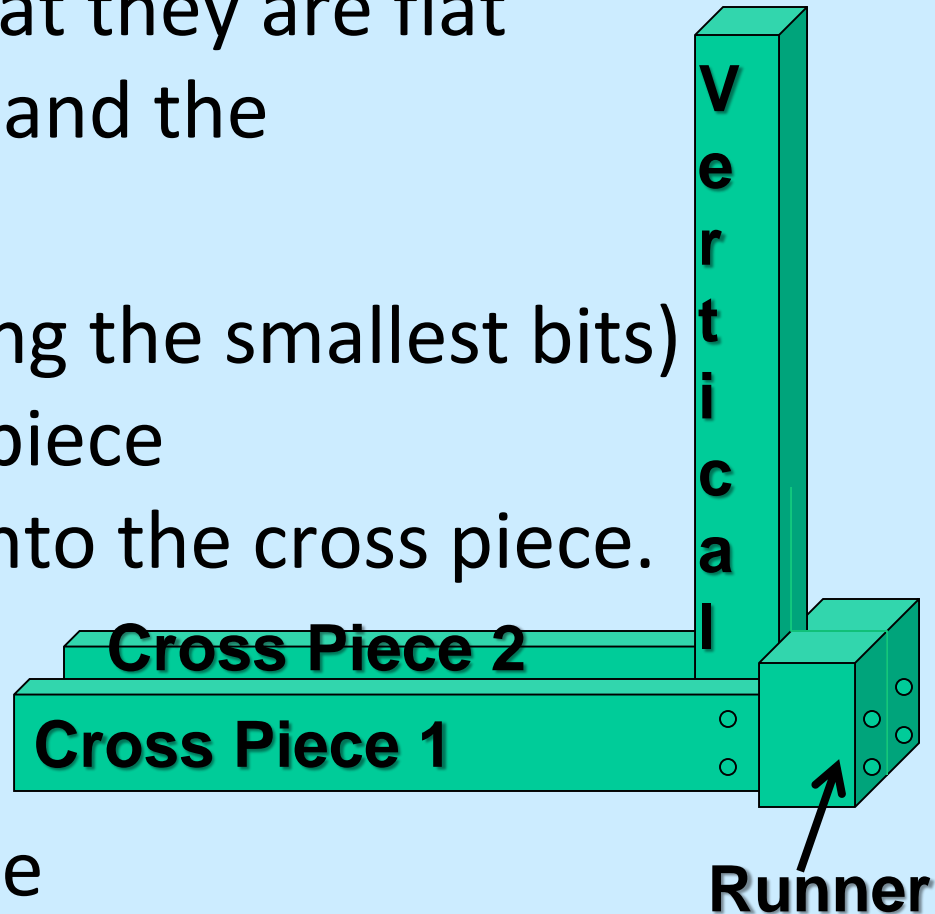
- Mark the center lines on the runners and the vertical pieces
 - Pencils and straight edges are in the bit bag
- Line up the center lines as shown
- Drill holes for screws through both using the smallest bits.
- Attach pieces using drill w/ screwdriver bit & 3" deck screws



STEP ONE

ASSEMBLING THE FRAME

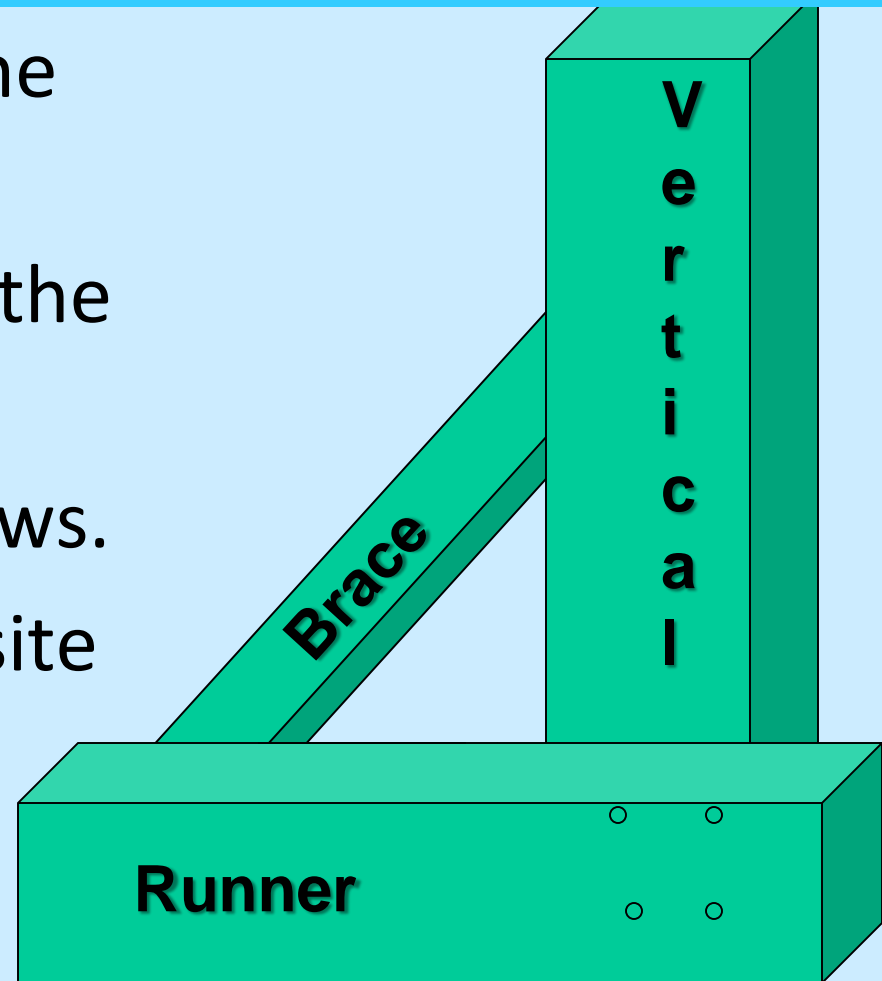
- Line up cross pieces so that they are flat against the vertical piece and the runner.
- Drill holes for screws (using the smallest bits) on the sides of the cross piece and through the runner into the cross piece. Screw cross piece into vertical and runner
- Repeat with the other side



STEP ONE

ASSEMBLING THE FRAME

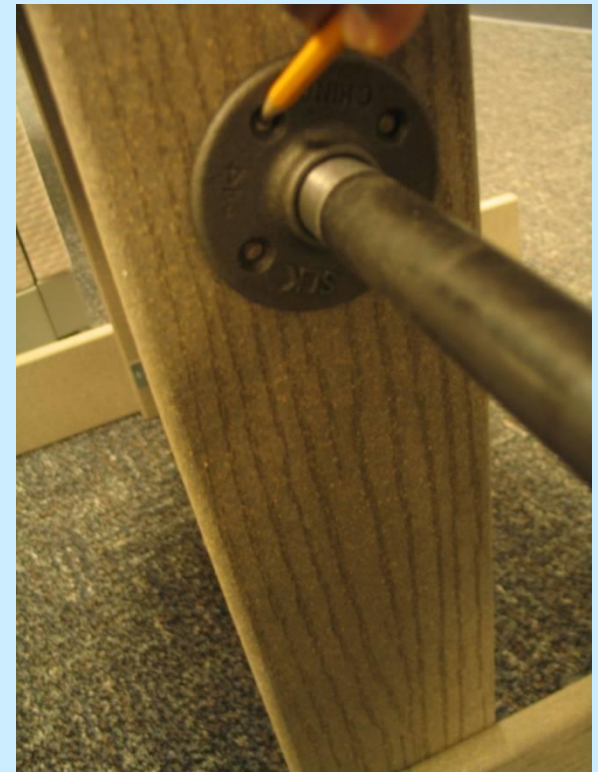
- Line up the brace against the vertical piece and runner
- Drill holes for screws using the smallest bits
- Attach brace using the screws.
- Repeat on the other, opposite side of the frame (ie: if left side brace faces front, right side brace should face rear)



STEP TWO

ATTACHING TUMBLER AXLE

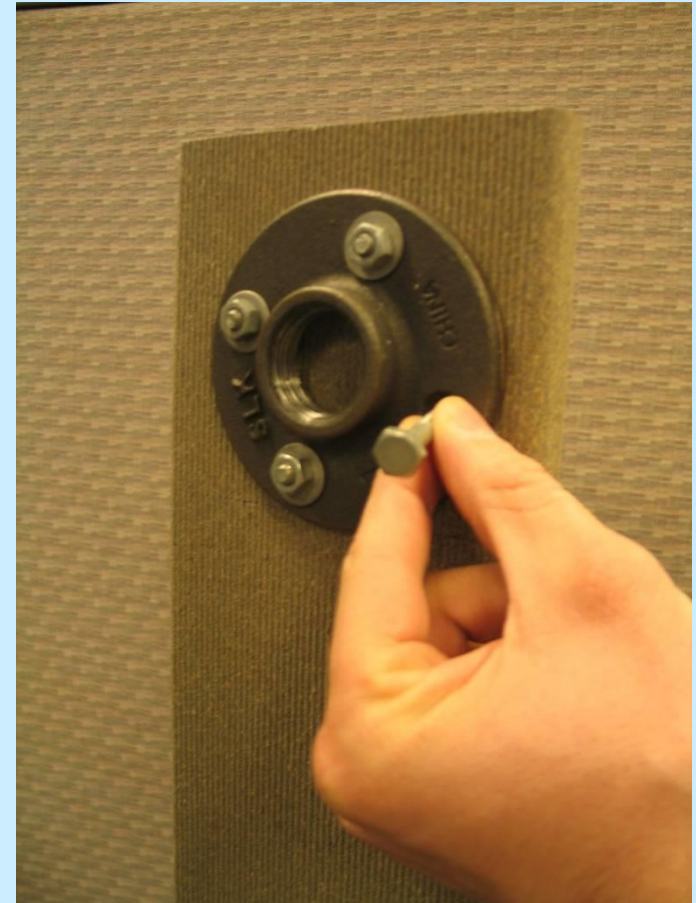
- Hold the pipe flanges against the top center of the vertical pieces and use a pencil to mark the location of the flange's holes onto the wood.
- Drill holes using the medium bit



STEP TWO

ATTACHING TUMBLER AXLE

- Unscrew one of the flanges and attach it to the vertical piece using the bolts, nuts, and washers.
- Pass the pipe with the remaining flange through the holes in the barrel and screw the pipe into the flange bolted to the wood. Bolt the second flange into the other vertical piece.



STEP THREE

DRILLING AERATION HOLES

- Drill aeration holes throughout the barrel using the largest drill bit
- Tip: On plastic tops, drill many holes along low spots of lid anticipating where water might pool

ONCE YOU GET HOME

You now have your own composting tumbler!

To lengthen the life of your tumbler, you can:

- treat the wood with linseed oil

- lacquer the wood

- paint it with a water based exterior paint

- **put down gravel, cinder blocks or some other hard surface to eliminate direct contact with soil**