

Don't throw leaf and yard debris away! Use it in your compost!

Your compost pile needs more than just food scraps to make nice soil—it needs a balanced diet of nitrogen-rich food scraps (“greens”) AND carbon-rich materials (“browns”). **Luckily, you have a lot of carbon right at home!**

Top 4 sources of carbon “Browns” at home:

1. **Leaves.** Bag dry leaves in the fall for use throughout the year. Don't put wet leaves in compost.
2. **Shredded Paper.** Shredded newspaper, paper napkins and towels, office paper, and cardboard.
3. **Grass clippings.** Allow them to dry and turn brown first.
4. **Brush.** Chip first.

Keep Browns handy near your compost bin and add a layer on top of food scraps every time.

Empty your compost bin each Halloween to be sure you've got plenty of space for winter's slow composting season.

3 parts : **1** part

dry leaves,
paper, grass,
or wood chips

food scraps

Mix often

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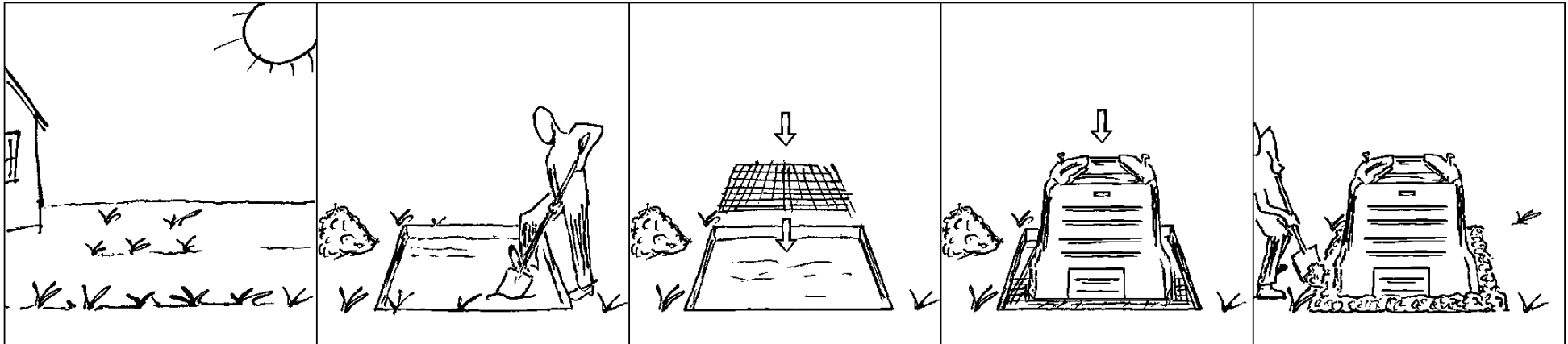
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Set your compost bin up right

Get the most out of an open-bottomed composter by **adding a sheet of hardware cloth** (galvanized wire mesh)



Pick a level site that is sunny and easy to access

Dig a square hole 2" deep and 4" wider than the bin on all sides (should be about 36"x36"). Reserve sod/soil.

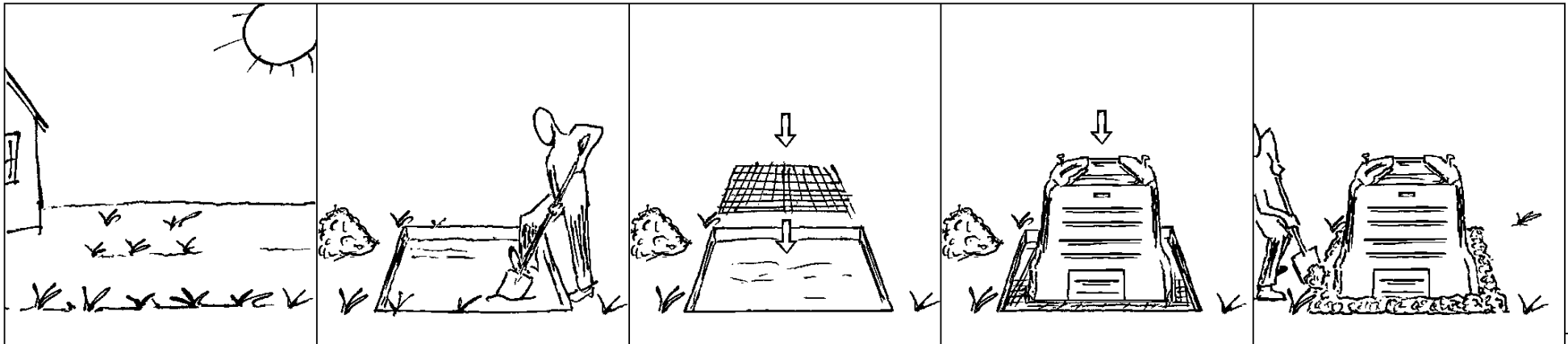
Place a piece of 1/4" hardware cloth that is 4" wider than the bin on all sides (same size as the hole) down flat in the hole.

Place composter directly on top of the hardware cloth. Center it in the hole so there is equal space on all sides.

Replace soil on top of the exposed hardware cloth all around the bin, packing firmly. A little extra berm against the side of the bin is okay.

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