



Composting *Design Options*

A side-by-side review of five compost bin designs — weighing appearance, primate and pest protection, build effort and upkeep.

5

DESIGNS REVIEWED

3

LIDDED OPTIONS

1

FULLY PEST PROOF



OVERVIEW

Five designs, *one clear trade-off*

The lidded timber designs score well on appearance and deterring primates, but cost more and take more skill to build. The simpler pallet and mesh builds are cheap and quick, but leave compost open to rats and primates.

3 / 5

include a lid to deter primates

1 / 5

rated fully pest proof

3 / 5

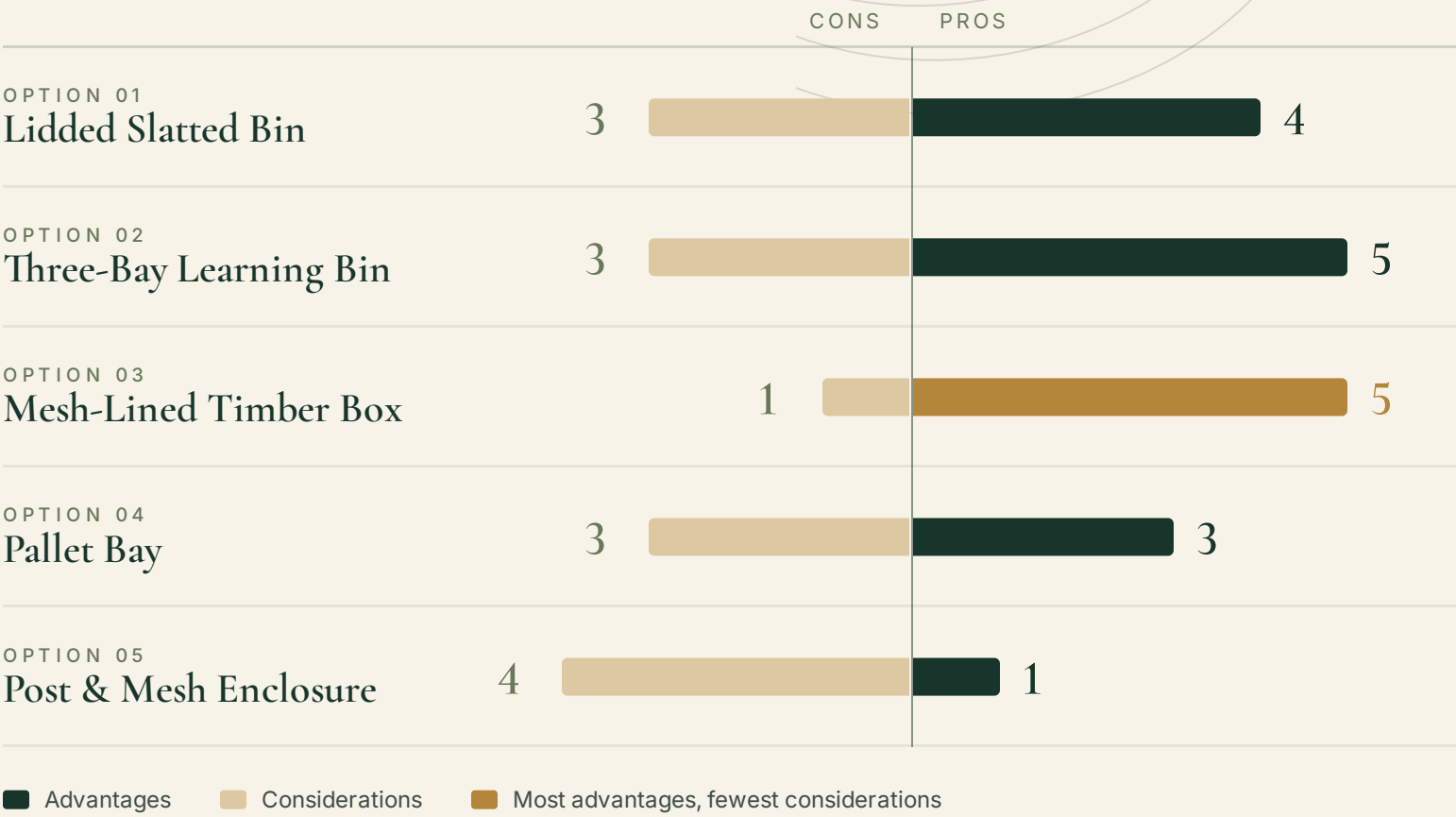
need regular mesh replacement

2 / 5

simple and cheap to make

BALANCE OF FINDINGS

Considerations vs. advantages noted



Counts of pros and cons as listed for each design in the original review.



OPTION 01 · DESIGN REVIEW

01

Lidded *Slatted Bin*

Single-bay timber bin with hinged lid

LID	PEST PROTECTION	BUILD	UPKEEP
● Yes	● Partial	● Higher cost & skill	○ Not specified

PROS

- ✓ Attractive
- ✓ Lid helps deter primates
- ✓ Good size — can be kept out of sight of guests
- ✓ Several could be installed onsite

CONS

- ⊖ More expensive to build than other designs
- ⊖ More skill required to build
- ⊖ Not fully pest proof (i.e. rats)

Three-Bay Learning Bin

Three-section timber bin with illustrated lids



LID	PEST PROTECTION	BUILD	EDUCATION
● Yes	● Partial	● Higher cost & skill	● Built-in

PROS

- 🌿 Attractive
- 🌿 Lid helps deter primates
- 🌿 Three sections, as discussed
- 🌿 Diagrams and instructions on the lid — a good idea
- 🌿 Can be used as part of education programmes

CONS

- ⊖ More expensive than other designs
- ⊖ More skill required to build
- ⊖ Not fully pest proof (i.e. rats)

Mesh-Lined *Timber Box*

Timber frame with mesh sides and mesh lid



LID	PEST PROTECTION	BUILD	UPKEEP
● Yes	● Pest proof	○ Not specified	● Mesh replacement

- PROS
- 🌿 Attractive
 - 🌿 Lid helps deter primates
 - 🌿 Good size — can be kept out of sight of guests
 - 🌿 Several could be installed onsite
 - 🌿 Pest proof

- CONS
- ⊖ Metal wiring will need regular replacement (plastic mesh is a possible alternative)



Pallet Bay

Open bay assembled from timber pallets



LID	PEST PROTECTION	BUILD	UPKEEP
● None	● None	● Easy & low-cost	● Mesh replacement

PROS

- Simple design — easy and cheap to make
- Good size — can be kept out of sight of guests
- Several could be installed onsite

CONS

- ⊖ Metal wiring will need regular replacement (plastic mesh is a possible alternative)
- ⊖ Not pest proof (i.e. rats)
- ⊖ No lid

Post & Mesh *Enclosure*

Multi-bay mesh enclosure on timber posts



LID	PEST PROTECTION	BUILD	UPKEEP
● None	● None	● Easy & low-cost	● Mesh replacement

PROS

- Simple design — easy and cheap to make

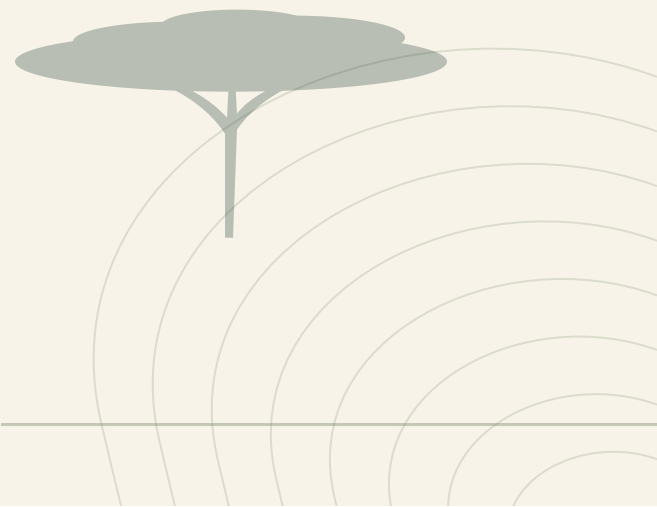
CONS

- ⊖ Metal wiring will need regular replacement (plastic mesh is a possible alternative)
- ⊖ Not pest proof (i.e. rats)
- ⊖ No lid
- ⊖ Not as attractive as other designs

Comparing *the designs*

Every criterion below is drawn directly from the pros and cons recorded for each option. A dash means the review did not comment on that point.

- Strength noted
- ◐ Partial / with caveats
- Weakness noted
- Not addressed



OPTION 01
Lidded
Slatted Bin



OPTION 02
Three-Bay
Learning Bin



OPTION 03
Mesh-Lined
Timber Box



OPTION 04
Pallet
Bay



OPTION 05
Post & Mesh
Enclosure

Attractive appearance	●	●	●	—	○
Lid to deter primates	●	●	●	○	○
Pest proof (e.g. rats)	◐	◐	●	○	○
Simple & low-cost to build	○	○	—	●	●
Discreet size, out of guest view	●	—	●	●	—
Can install several onsite	●	—	●	●	—
No mesh replacement needed	—	—	○	○	○
Supports education programmes	—	●	—	—	—