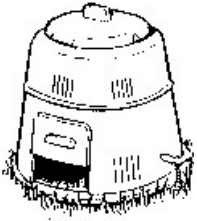


# Composter's Resource Guide

The Santa Cruz County Guide to finding compost bins, raw materials, redworms, finished compost and more!

## MANUFACTURED BINS



Residents of unincorporated area and Scotts Valley are eligible for a free or below cost bin if they attend a workshop. Call the Rotline or the Worm Doctor for details. (See reverse.)

Residents of the cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola and Watsonville should contact the provider of their garbage and recycling services for information on special deals on bins.

Request "Everything You Need to Know About Compost Bins" from the Rotline for more information on bin subsidy programs and local and mail order bins.

## DO IT YOURSELF BINS

Free plans for backyard bins and worm bins are available from the Rotline, 423-4327.

## RECYCLED LUMBER

Capitola Salvage, 1575 38th Avenue, Capitola, 465-6990.

Castroville Salvage (Randazzo), 10900 Merritt Street, Castroville, 633-0369.

## PALLETS

Useful for making compost bins.

Lumbermen's locations:

- 235 River St, Santa Cruz, 426-1020.
- 2435 41st Ave, Soquel, 425-6100.
- 5843 Graham Hill Road, Felton, 335-4423.

## COMPOSTING ACCESSORIES

### USED PLASTIC BUCKETS

To collect kitchen scraps or carry compost. Call ahead to ask them to save buckets for you.



- Safeway Deli or Bake Shops
- Nob Hill, 1912 Main, Watsonville, 728-9555.
- Allbright's Donut Shoppe, 1055 Water St., Santa Cruz, 423-1785. Buckets are \$1 each.
- Crow's Nest Restaurant, 2218 E. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz, 476-4560.

## BURLAP BAGS

Useful for covering worm bins. Check with Capitola Coffee Roasters, Capitola, 476-5422, Java Bob's, Santa Cruz, 425-7143, or Capitola Salvage, 465-6990. Also, check the yellow pages under Coffee Roasting.

## Materials Exchanges

Free services designed to help businesses and people find markets for materials they would otherwise discard. Great sources for free stuff including **buckets, building materials, spoiled hay, sawdust, manure, compost, mulch and wood chips!**

Organic Materials Exchange, [www.omexchange.org](http://www.omexchange.org), lists sources for livestock manure, compost and various types of mulch such as wood chips, coffee grounds and more.

Santa Cruz County Freecycle, [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SantaCruzCountyFreecycle/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SantaCruzCountyFreecycle/). Lists items that your neighbors want to give away. Great source for used bins, buckets, bin-building materials, leaves, food scraps and more.

California: CALMAX, [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/calmax](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/calmax).

## REDWORMS FOR WORM BINS

Buy worms at cost at a Hands-On Wormshop! Contact the Worm Doctor, 427-3452 or visit the website for a schedule. (Must pre-register)

Local worm suppliers:

- Dharmananda Estes, Boulder Creek, 338-0189.
- Stafford Warren, Scotts Valley, 408-568-3182.
- John Kiegelis, Scotts Valley, 247-1471.



Mail order suppliers:

- Foothill Worm Ranch, [www.foothillwormranch.com](http://www.foothillwormranch.com), (925) 484-4192.
- Happy D Ranch, [www.happydranch.com](http://www.happydranch.com), (888) 989-1558.

## RAW MATERIALS FOR YOUR PILE

### STRAW AND ALFALFA HAY

Use straw as a 'brown' material to promote aeration in the pile. Use alfalfa hay when green to provide nitrogen.

- Valley Feed, 1486 Freedom Blvd. Watsonville, 728-2244.
- General Feed & Seed, 1900 Commercial Way, Santa Cruz, 476-5344.
- Felton Feed & Pet Supply, 6180 Hwy 9, Felton, 335-1212.

### DRY LEAVES

Stockpile leaves from neighbors' yards. Use to cover food scraps and provide aeration in the pile or the worm bin.



### GRASS CLIPPINGS

Use when green to provide nitrogen to the pile. Layer with brown materials. Avoid collecting clippings from lawns treated with weed killers.

## COFFEE GROUNDS

Rescue some coffee grounds from the local coffee shop. They provide nitrogen to the pile and worms love them!

## SAWDUST

Use sawdust as a 'brown' material, and to promote aeration in the pile. Hardwood sawdust, generally available from woodworkers, is the best. Don't use sawdust from treated lumber. Avoid sawdust from plywood or composite board.

John Lackey Woodworking, 2730 Chanticleer Ave., Santa Cruz, 462-0528. Hardwood sawdust.

Lumbermen's locations (includes some plywood, composite board sawdust):

- 235 River St., Santa Cruz, 426-1020.
- 2435 41st Ave., Soquel, 475-6100.
- 5843 Graham Hill Road, Felton, 335-4423.

Also, check the Yellow Pages under Woodworkers.

## VEGETABLE TRIMMINGS

Rescue your neighbors' food scraps from the landfill.

- Roy's New Leaf Market, 6240 Hwy. 9, Felton, 335-7322.
- Aptos Natural Foods, 7506 Soquel Dr., Aptos, 685-3334.
- Sunnyside Produce, 2520 Main, Soquel, 476-8904.
- Grey Bears, 2710 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz (Fridays).

Ask about food scraps at your favorite market or restaurant. Most businesses are happy to oblige!



## MANURE

Generally free. Some provide free loading of your truck. Organic Materials Exchange, [www.omexchange.org](http://www.omexchange.org), lists sources for livestock manure and other organic materials.

## FOR YOUR GARDEN OR YOUR PILE

### FINISHED COMPOST AND GREEN WASTE AND WOOD WASTE MULCH



Compost can be used as a soil amendment or a mulch. Green waste and wood waste mulch is appropriate for pathways or as a raw material for your pile. Vision Recycling makes EcoComp compost from food scraps collected from

restaurants and markets (available only at Watsonville site). They make beautiful blends of wood chips from yard waste. Visit their website at [www.visionrecycling.com](http://www.visionrecycling.com), contact them at 479-7857 or pick up materials at their sites:

- Buena Vista Landfill Wood Waste Diversion Site, 1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville.
- Ben Lomond Transfer Station Wood Waste Diversion Site, 9835 Newell Creek Rd., Ben Lomond.

Organic Materials Exchange, [www.omexchange.org](http://www.omexchange.org), lists sources for compost and other organic materials.

## WOOD CHIPS

Use for pathways or as a raw material for your pile. Many tree service companies will deliver wood chips on request. Check the yellow pages under Tree Services listings or see Materials Exchange box, reverse side.

Rent a chipper to make your own chips: A Tool Shed, Santa Cruz (425-0111) and Watsonville (722-0334).

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

### COMPOSTING BOOKS AND VIDEOS

Santa Cruz Public Libraries, 420-5730. Over 20 books and videos on composting available for loan to the public. Check it out in person or at [www.santacruzpl.org/](http://www.santacruzpl.org/).

### COMPOST WEBSITES

[www.compostsantacruzcounty.org](http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org)

County of Santa Cruz's own website. Get the real dirt on how to compost with worms and local resources. Download publications and find links to more websites.

[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics)

California Integrated Waste Management Board site.

<http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/flash/worm/>

Fun facts for kids on worms and vermicomposting.

[www.worndigest.org](http://www.worndigest.org)

Forums, publications and links for worm composting.

### COMPOST WORKSHOPS

The County of Santa Cruz offers Hands-On Wormshops and Comprehensive Composting Workshops throughout the year. Free admission and free and below cost bins available for residents of the unincorporated area and Scotts Valley. Visit the website or call the Rotline or the Worm Doctor for a schedule.

### THE MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

The Home Composting Program trains volunteers in backyard composting, worm composting and presentation techniques. Volunteers assist with composting workshops and educational outreach. For more information call the Rotline and leave a message.

Learn more about composting and order publications online at

[www.compostsantacruzcounty.org](http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org)

Questions about Composting with Worms?  
Call the Worm Doctor, (831) 427-3452

General Questions about Home Composting?  
Call the Rotline, (831) 423-HEAP (4327)



The Home Composting Program is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and produced by the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services



Printed on recycled paper.  
Updated November 2007 by the Worm Doctor