

# 5 How to set up a bin

- ✓ Get two same-type containers and one lid
- ✓ Drill holes in the bottom of one of the bins or cut out one of the bottoms and use a fine mesh
- ✓ Line the bottom with slightly wet brown material
- ✓ Add green material whenever needed, making sure to cover with more brown material



CITY OF  
CARPINTERIA

The City of Carpinteria provides **FREE** kitchen pails to Carpinteria residents!

**OPEN**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**8AM-5PM**

**More Information**

[www.carpinteriaca.gov](http://www.carpinteriaca.gov)

[sustainability@carpinteriaca.gov](mailto:sustainability@carpinteriaca.gov)

**Location**

5775 Carpinteria Ave,  
Carpinteria, CA 93013

**Contact Us**

**805.880.3415**



## DIY Composting Bin

Learn how to build and use food scraps to make rich compost



## WHAT GOES IN A BIN

- Fruit and Veggie Scraps
- Coffee and Tea
- Egg Shells
- Grains, Cereal, Bread, Pasta, Rice
- Paper Scraps, Towels, Toilet Paper rolls
- Garden Clippings, flowers, dead plants

## WHAT DOES NOT GO IN A BIN

- Meat, dairy, oil\*
- No plastic, pet poop, or cleaning chemicals

**\*These items can be added but might cause additional smell and attract critters**

## COMPOST LEACHATE

- Water that drains from the bottom of the compost bin
- Can be full of harmful bacteria
- Smells bad - dump under a tree or down the sink
- Does not smell bad - dilute heavily with water

## COMMON PROBLEMS

### SMELLS BAD

**ADD BROWN MATERIAL  
CHECK MOISTURE LEVEL**

### FRUIT FLIES

**ADD BROWN MATERIAL  
PLACE A FRUIT FLY TRAP**



# How to Harvest?

## BLACK GOLD

Wait until the compost is fully broken down before harvesting. Compost will be a dark color and a fine texture.

## ADD TO PLANTS

Once fully broken down, add compost to plants or store in a container to use as needed. Make compost tea for fertilizer

# Compost Tea

Need:

- Dechlorinated water (rainwater, distilled water, etc)
- Finished compost
- Porous bags (stockings)

Add your compost to the bag and put in a bucket with the water. Leave overnight up to a couple of days. Optional: Add brown sugar and stir to increase bacteria and oxygen