

# COMPOSTING

## Backyard Composting

Kitchen scraps such as fruits and vegetable peels cannot be placed in the street with yard materials. Consider composting them instead, and turn them into a high quality fertilizer and soil amendment for your garden. Composting is a means of using natural decomposing processes to turn kitchen and yard material into a nutrient-rich soil supplement for your yard or garden. It also has the potential to divert a significant amount of waste from the landfill. If proper composting techniques are followed (i.e. mixing fruits and vegetable trimmings with yard materials, etc.), composting requires little work and is odor and rodent-free. Visit [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) to learn more about composting.



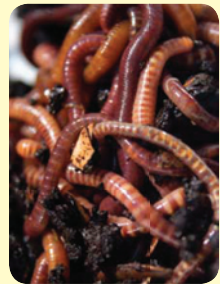
### Would you like a free compost bin?

Davis residents in single-family homes may sign up at any time for a free compost correspondence class. After signing up, a packet of information will be mailed to you. Review the material, complete and return the enclosed quiz to the Public Works Department. You will then be notified to pick up an easily-transported, free compost bin. Call the Public Works Department at 757-5686 for a free compost correspondence class packet.

## Worm Composting

Do you have a lot of kitchen scraps that you want to compost, but only a small amount of yard materials? A great way to compost fruits, vegetables and bread is by vermicomposting, a.k.a., worm composting—using worms to do your composting. The worms feed on and decompose fruit and vegetable trimmings, leaving behind worm castings, which are an excellent soil amendment.

The key to vermicomposting is to create the ideal environment for the worms to thrive so they can efficiently decompose the material you feed them. Worm composting is simple. All you need to get started is a box, bedding and worms (special worms called red wigglers are required, earthworms aren't up to the job). Visit [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or call the City of Davis Public Works Department (757-5686) for more information.



## Grasscycling

An alternative to hauling grass clippings to the curb is to leave them on the lawn as a fertilizer. If you are thinking about purchasing a new lawn mower, consider buying a self-mulching mower. These mowers chop grass clippings finely so that they can readily decompose into your lawn. Mulch mowers are available locally and

come in a wide variety of styles and brands. Mower conversion kits are also available for some brands of mowers. Consult your dealer for details.