

# SEATTLE COMPOSTING RESOURCE GUIDE

## Topics in this guide

- Composting Bins (both do-it-yourself and manufactured bins)
- Master Composter/Soil Builder volunteer program (get involved in your community)
- Books and Videos About Composting
- Red Worms for Composting (sources)
- Finished Compost for Sale (where to buy)
- Raw Materials for Composting and Mulching (where to get them free)
- Shredders, Chippers and Hand Tools
- Waste Reduction and Other Information



## Composting Bins *click blue links to open these websites*

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Seattle residents can receive information on where to purchase compost bins, and other yard questions by contacting the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org).

### Do-It-Yourself

- **The Natural Soil Building Program** provides **free** design sheets for a 3-bin unit, an indoor and outdoor worm bin, and a food scrap digester. For copies of these free design sheets, call the **Garden Hotline**, (206) 633-0224, or go to [www.seattletilth.org/learn/resources-1/compost](http://www.seattletilth.org/learn/resources-1/compost). The Garden Hotline can also send you copies of guides on composting food scraps and yard materials, soil building, growing food in the city, smart watering, natural lawn care, choosing the right plants, and natural pest, weed, and disease control.
- **Compost Tumbler Plans:** [www.compostbinplans.com/compost-tumbler-plans](http://www.compostbinplans.com/compost-tumbler-plans)

### Manufactured

- **Seattle Composter and Green Cone Food Waste Digester:** Available from the Seattle Conservation Corps: (206) 684-0190. [www.seattle.gov/binsandbarrels](http://www.seattle.gov/binsandbarrels)
- **Sky Nursery:** Cedar worm bins, wire yard waste bins and other tumbling and rotating yard waste bins. Call for availability. (206) 546-4851. [www.skynursery.com](http://www.skynursery.com)
- **Yelm Earthworm & Castings Farm:** Food waste composting systems. 877-339-6767 [www.yelmworms.com](http://www.yelmworms.com)
- **WormsWrangler.com:** Yard waste bins, tumblers and food waste bins. Ships from Rochester, WA. (360) 273-2500 [www.wormswrangler.com](http://www.wormswrangler.com)
- **The Chicken Gardener.** Cedar compost bins by mail (Washington, Oregon and California) 541-221-2711. [www.chickengardener.com](http://www.chickengardener.com)
- **Gardener's Supply:** Yard waste bins, tumblers and food waste bins, by mail. 1-888-833-1412 [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)
- **WAGLE (World Awaits Global Learning and Enlightenment).** Compost bins and tumblers by mail. 1-877-607-4944. [www.wagle.com/composters](http://www.wagle.com/composters)

## Master Composter/Soil Builder Volunteer Program

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Master Composter/Soil Builder Volunteers offer educational activities for all ages. To schedule activities or to find out how to become a volunteer, call the Volunteer Coordinator, 206-633-0097.

## Books & Videos About Composting

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- ***Worms Eat My Garbage***, by Mary Appelhof. Excellent how-to book available at Seattle Libraries, Seattle Tilth, and booksellers. [www.wormwoman.com](http://www.wormwoman.com)
- ***Let It Rot! The Home Gardener's Guide to Composting***, by Stu Campbell. Great practical book available at Seattle Public Libraries and booksellers.
- ***Rodale Book of Composting***, by Rodale Press. Home composting reference available at Seattle Libraries and booksellers.
- ***The Complete Home Composting Video Guide***, by Vernal Productions. Clear visual guide to composting available at Seattle Libraries.

## Red Worms for Composting

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Red worms are sold in many ways. For a healthy start, a 2' by 3' by 1' deep worm bin requires ½ pound to 1 pound of worms. Call sources listed below for availability before you go to purchase.

- **Seattle Tilth:** 4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103. (206) 633-0224. [www.seattletilth.org](http://www.seattletilth.org)
- **Stone Way Hardware:** 4318 Stone Way N., Seattle, WA 98103. (206) 545-6910 [www.stonewayhardware.com](http://www.stonewayhardware.com)
- **Seattle Farm Co-op:** warehouse located at 1937 Occidental Ave S, Seattle. 100% volunteer based purchasing co-op. [www.seattlefarmcoop.com](http://www.seattlefarmcoop.com)
- **Sky Nursery:** 18528 Aurora Way N., Shoreline, WA 98133. (206) 546-4851 [www.skynursery.com](http://www.skynursery.com)
- **Eastside, South Bellevue and Renton area:** Call Evelyn Howe, (206) 501-8844. Does not ship.
- **Minter's Earlington Greenhouse:** 13043 Renton Ave S., Renton, WA 98178. Available spring and summer only. (425) 255-7744. [www.mintersnursery.com](http://www.mintersnursery.com)
- **Northwest Wigglers:** Ships from Lake Stevens, WA. 206-659-6767. [www.northwestwigglers.com](http://www.northwestwigglers.com)
- **WormsWrangler.com:** Ships from Rochester, WA. (360) 273-2500 (10 AM - 3 PM). [www.wormswrangler.com](http://www.wormswrangler.com)
- **Yelm Earthworms and Castings Farm:** 14741 Lawrence Lake Rd SE, Yelm, WA 98597. 1-877-339-6767 [www.yelmworms.com](http://www.yelmworms.com)

The Natural Soil Building Program is sponsored by **Seattle Public Utilities**. Contact the Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224 or [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org) for more information about red worm suppliers, natural gardening and recycling.

## Finished Compost for Sale

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Finished Compost: Check "Topsoils" and "Compost" in the Yellow Pages for other compost products. Contact the Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224 or [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org) for a more information about finished compost resources.

- **Barefoot Soil:** Earthworm castings from dairy and horse manure and yard waste. 1-877-339-6767. [www.yelmworms.com](http://www.yelmworms.com)
- **Bailey Compost:** 12711 Springhetti Road, Snohomish. Yard waste and dairy manure. Available in bulk for pick-up or local delivery. (360) 568-8826. [www.baileycompost.com](http://www.baileycompost.com)
- **Cedar Grove Compost:** Available in bags at local garden stores and hardware stores. Also available in bulk for pick-up or delivery. 1-877-764-5748. [www.cedar-grove.com](http://www.cedar-grove.com)

- **DeJong's Sawdust and Shavings:** 11807 Avondale Rd NE, Redmond. Chicken-N-Chips® composted chicken manure, horse manure, and wood shavings. Available in bulk for pick-up or delivery. (425) 885-1821. [www.dejongss.com](http://www.dejongss.com)
- **Lenz Enterprises:** Available in bulk at their site in Stanwood, and also through local vendors, including Sayers Fuel and Sky Nursery listed below.  
5210 SR 532 Stanwood WA. 98292  
(360) 629-2933 [www.Lenz-enterprises.com](http://www.Lenz-enterprises.com) and [www.greenblenz.com](http://www.greenblenz.com)
- **Sawdust Supply Co., Inc:** 6314 7<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Seattle and 7409 S 202<sup>nd</sup> Street, Kent. GroCo™ (composted municipal biosolids and sawdust), SteerCo™ (steer manure, sawdust and nitrogen), and Beauti-Gro™ (steer manure and bark). Available in bulk for pick-up or delivery. Blower service also available. (206) 622-4321. [www.sawdustsupply.com](http://www.sawdustsupply.com)
- **Sayers Fuel:** 3809 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle. Cedar Grove, Lenz Enterprises, and Steer-Co™ available in bulk for pick-up or delivery. (206) 723-0564
- **Sky Nursery:** 18528 Aurora Ave. N. Cedar Grove, Lenz Enterprises, and Chicken-N-Chips® compost available in bulk for pick-up. Various bagged compost products also available. (206) 546-4851. [www.skynursery.com](http://www.skynursery.com)
- **Zoo Doo®:** 750 N 50th Street (South Entrance), 5500 Phinney Ave N (West Entrance). Composted herbivore manure from the Woodland Park Zoo. Available at the ZooStores in small amounts. Bulk available at the Fecal Fest. Call the Poop Line at (206) 625-7667. [www.zoo.org/zoo-doo](http://www.zoo.org/zoo-doo)

## Raw Materials for Composting and Mulching

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- **Manure:** Check **Craig's List** and newspaper classified ads for dairies and stables offering low cost and free manure. Some deliver for a fee. [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)
- **King Conservation District: "Manure Share Program"** provides gardeners with listings for livestock owners with free manure available for pick-up. (425) 282-1903. [www.kingcd.org/pro-far-man.htm](http://www.kingcd.org/pro-far-man.htm)
- **Seattle Mounted Police:** Free manure mixed with sawdust. You load and pick-up at Westcrest Park location, 9200 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Seattle WA, 98106. Call ahead. (206) 386-4238
- **Upcycle NW:** Burlap coffee bags and coffee chaff. [www.seattleburlap.com](http://www.seattleburlap.com)
- **Asplundh Tree Experts Company:** They will deliver arborist wood chips if they are working in your neighborhood to clear lines for Seattle City Light. You must be able to accept a full load. 425) 483-9339.
- **Arborist Wood Chips** are delivered for free by many "Tree Services" and Arborists listed in the Yellow Pages.

## Shredders, Chippers and Hand Tools

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**Shredders and Chippers:** Shredders and chippers are useful for turning woody yard debris into mulches and preparing materials for rapid composting. They work best for leaves, twigs and stalks. Chippers are needed for woody branches. Many machines both shred and chip.

Small electric "mulch makers" used for leaves and twigs are available for under \$200. Gasoline powered units, 5-8 horsepower, can chip branches up to 2" or 3" in diameter and cost \$500-\$1,500. Look for "Lawn and Garden Equipment" suppliers in the Yellow Pages.

Many "Rental Service Stores and Yards" listed in the Yellow Pages rent shredders and chippers by the hour or day. Rates vary widely. Call to make sure the yard has a machine that is appropriate for the materials you want to shred or chip.

**Hand Tools for Composting:** Manure forks, post-hole diggers, machetes, screens, and soil thermometers are available at local hardware stores and through the mail-order garden catalogues. You can also join a community organization that hosts a tool-sharing library:

- **Phinney Neighborhood Association:** [www.phinneycenter.org](http://www.phinneycenter.org)
- **West Seattle Tool Library:** <http://wstoollibrary.org/2011/07/sharing-tools-skills-community>

## Waste Reduction, and Other Information

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- **Seattle Public Utilities:** Garbage, recycling and yard debris pick-up info. (206) 684-3000 [www.seattle.gov/util/services](http://www.seattle.gov/util/services)
- **King County Solid Waste:** Recycling/composting information for King Co. residents outside Seattle. (206) 296-4466 <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste>
- **Washington State Department of Ecology:** Recycling Hotline. 1-800-RECYCLE (732-9253). <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/recycle>
- **Hazardous Waste Line:** Seattle-King County Public Health Dept. (206) 296-4692. [www.lhwmp.org/home/](http://www.lhwmp.org/home/)
- **Washington Toxics Coalition:** (206) 632-1545. [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org)
- **Washington Department of Ecology Toxic Free Tips:** 1-866-939-9991. [www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips)
- **Seattle City Arborist:** Info about street tree planting and removal. (206) 684-8733. [www.seattle.gov/transportation/arborist.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/arborist.htm)
- **Washington State University Cooperative Extension, King County:** active local programs, including Master Gardeners. <http://king.wsu.edu/gardening>. Master Gardeners program gardening information, clinic schedules and e-clinic can also be found at: [www.mgfk.org](http://www.mgfk.org)
- **University of Washington Botanic Gardens:** Horticultural workshops and library. (206) 543-8616. <http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg>
- **Seattle Tilth:** Organic gardening workshops and library. (206) 633-0451. [www.seattletilth.org](http://www.seattletilth.org)
- **Seattle Public Utilities Water Conservation Office:** Free information on water conservation gardening practices. (206) 684-7283. [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org)
- **RainWise.** Seattle Public Utilities information on managing storm water on your property. [www.seattle.gov/util/RainWise](http://www.seattle.gov/util/RainWise)
- **Natural Yard Care.** Information on building soil, choosing the right plants, smart watering, lawn care, and natural pest, weed & disease control.  
See [www.seattle.gov/util/services/yard](http://www.seattle.gov/util/services/yard) or [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org)  
or for questions call the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224 or email [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org) .