

# Winter Newsletter 2022

## Contra Costa Clean Water Program

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### (Rain) Barrels of Fun

The rainy season is upon us, but let's not forget, California is still in a [drought](#). It's more important than ever to conserve water whenever possible. So why not save water AND money? Rain barrels do just that! Rain barrels are containers that sit next to your home or other standing structure and collect rainwater from downspouts or gutter converters. You can use the rainwater you collect to water your yard or garden, which saves you money on your water bill. Learn how to make your own rain barrel in 5 easy steps at <https://bit.ly/diy-barrel>.



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### Say it Don't Spray it



When you want something done right, you talk to a professional. Pest management is no different! Did you know that when you apply pesticides, you're introducing a short-term, toxic solution that doesn't address the underlying pest problem? When it rains, rainwater carries pesticides to storm drains which let out to local creeks. The pesticide toxins in the water impact wildlife and ecosystems. This can all be avoided when you hire pest control experts who specialize in long-term, less toxic pest solutions. For more information on non-toxic pest management and pest control experts near you, go to [www.ccleanwater.org/community/home-garden](http://www.ccleanwater.org/community/home-garden).

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### I Beg Your Garden

Spring garden preparation starts... now. Planning ahead is the best way to set your garden up for success in the new year. We're here to help you *choose wisely*. Plants that are native to the East Bay region will be best suited for the Contra Costa County climate and retain water most efficiently. Introducing native plants to your garden also ensures that you're preventing the spread of invasive species. Another benefit— native plants act as natural barriers that filter out pollutants and prevent stormwater pollution! The Contra Costa Water District details how to

1. Choose the right plant
2. Purchase plants
3. Install plants in your yard or garden

Check it out at <https://bit.ly/smart-plants!>



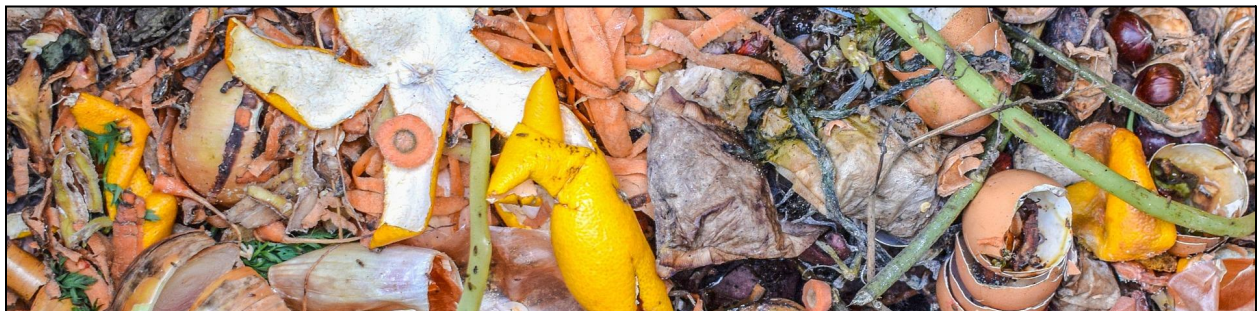
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## Breaking Down Compost

Let's break down the truth about compost. Not only is composting easy and costs you virtually nothing, but compost also reduces stormwater pollution! How? Because compost is made of organic materials, compost excels at retaining water, thus reducing erosion and runoff. Compost absorbs many of the pollutants (such as oil, grease, pesticides, and metals) that would otherwise travel to our waterways!

Find compost coupons to assist you in starting your composting journey at

<https://bit.ly/compost-coupon>.



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