

# YOUR EASY GUIDE TO COMPOSTING

## IN UNIT BLOCKS

Food recycling is important for reducing our impact on the environment and living more sustainably. The City of Canada Bay has developed the Compost Capers program with educational videos and fact sheets to help our residents reduce food waste and get started with composting or worm farming at home.

This fact sheet provides information on setting up shared composting in unit blocks. In addition to this fact sheet, we have prepared a video with helpful information from two locals who have implemented successful composting in their unit block. This video, as well as worm farming and composting fact sheets, is available at [collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/compostcapers](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/compostcapers)

There are a number of things to consider before setting up compost at a unit block. The most challenging step may be receiving approval from your Body Corporate. This is often due to the misconception that composting can smell and attracts pests. However, this is only a problem when composts systems are not managed well. Therefore understanding how you can ensure your compost remains healthy will increase your chances of approval from the body corporate.

### Top reasons to compost in your unit block

- Composting reduces food waste in landfill, cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions and saves money
- Finished compost is a valuable resource— it improves soil quality, structure and plant health
- Composting is a great way to connect with like-minded people and share skills



# GETTING STARTED: STEPS FOR SUCCESS

## Step 1. Learn how to compost: watch our composting video!

A well-managed compost bin will not smell or attract pests. Watch our composting video and download the Composting fact sheet from our Compost Capers site.

### Critical factors include:

- The right balance of carbon (garden organics) and nitrogen (food scraps) material
- Access to garden organics is very important — is there a garden onsite?
- Aeration or regular turning of compost to add oxygen into the compost
- A good moisture level is required — is there easy access to water?
- Avoid adding materials which attract pests and vermin
- What space is available for a compost bin? A sunny spot or partially shaded spot on soil, lawn or garden bed is ideal.



## Step 2. Seek approval from the body corporate or strata

Contact your body corporate or strata via email, attend a meeting and present your proposal armed with all the information about why composting is important and the steps you will take to ensure the compost bin will not smell or attract pests.

## Step 3. Apply for your free compost

After you have received body corporate or strata approval, complete Council's Unit Block composting survey at [collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/compostcapers](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/compostcapers) to receive your free compost bin and aerator (available while stocks last).

## Step 4. Communicate with the residents of your building

Invite your neighbours to participate through face to face discussions and/or notices and posters. Be positive and share what you have learned but do not expect everyone to share your enthusiasm. It is a good idea to start slow – you only need a couple of units. Others may join in over time when they see how well it is working. Invite questions and address any concerns early to avoid complaints.

## Step 5. What happens when the bin is full

It may take anywhere from a couple of months to several months to fill the compost bin. This will depend on how many people are involved. When the bin is full you will have to rest it for a couple of months for it to become completed compost. You may want to consider purchasing a second bin once this one is full!