

# Winter Home Spruce Up!



## Learn & Earn a Compost Bin - Easy as 1-2-3!

Dear Wally,

One of my New Years Resolutions for 2021 is to start composting at home. I am excited to create my own compost for my spring garden while doing something great for the planet. How do I get started?

Signed,  
Resolved to Rot

Dear Resolved,

Congratulations – taking an interest in composting is the first step toward sustainability with organic waste!

“Rot” (composting) is one of the most important of the “R’s” for our planet, along with “Repair” (goods), “Reduce” (trash), “Recycle” (products), and “Reuse” (everything). Composting your food scraps and plant clippings, and putting the nutrients in compost back into the soil, creates a complete cycle to feed the earth that grows your food.

Getting started is easier than ever because Salinas Valley Recycles is giving you the opportunity to “learn and earn” your own compost bin for free (while supplies last). While the pandemic safety protocols have been in place, we have been unable to hold our hands-on composting workshops at Jardin El Sol, our demonstration garden at our Sun Street facility, so we created videos to give you all the information you need to start composting at home. Now getting your

own compost bin is as easy as 1-2-3:

1) WATCH the videos “Worm Composting” (vermicomposting) and “Basic Backyard Composting” which are offered in English and Spanish at [www.SalinasValleyRecycles.org](http://www.SalinasValleyRecycles.org);

2) ANSWER a few easy questions about what you learned in the videos and PLEDGE to Compost! You’ll receive a certificate to exchange for your free compost bin (Garden Gourmet Backyard composter or Worm Bin; \$66 value);

3) Pick up your bin at one of our three locations and start your compost journey!

You’ll have nutrient-rich compost to use in your houseplants or garden within a few months!

Wally doesn’t want to be a spoiler about all the benefits to composting you’ll learn in our videos, but they include greenhouse gas reduction, reducing waste at the curb, enjoying nature, and giving back to the earth. It’s also a terrific way to teach kids about science and the cycle of nature and is a project you can do together.

Our videos include some troubleshooting tips for common problems, and our supportive team at Salinas Valley Recycles will help answer questions. Let us know how it goes!

Signed,  
Wally Waste-Not



Are you confused about what Salinas Valley Recycles does or what to do with all of your waste? Are you curious about sustainability? Ask Wally!

Check Wally’s blog at [www.SalinasValleyRecycles.org](http://www.SalinasValleyRecycles.org) or submit your own questions to [media@svsra.org](mailto:media@svsra.org).

## Meet Jon Stuefloten

A Life in Color

When Jon Stuefloten is asked how long he’s been painting, his quick answer is: “Most of my life.” And he’s not exactly exaggerating.

Jon recalls first picking up a paintbrush in his late teens, working for his father, who was a general contractor and supervisor for renowned Carmel designer and builder Hugh Comstock, who was known for his fairytale cottages he built in the 1920s and 1930s in the village.

That was back when all painting was done by brush, well before rollers and sprayers, and when paint was tinted on-site and done by eye, no Home Depot to rely on there. In fact, young Jon was tasked with adding lead to the buckets of paint. Yes, lead.

But lead paints are exactly what put him on his current path as an accomplished restoration painter and lead remediation expert. When he became a professional painter after returning to California after several years of living on the East Coast, Jon would publicize his services at home and building shows at the Monterey Fairgrounds.

One day a potential customer asked him if he had ever dealt with lead paints. “I grew up on lead paint!” he recalls telling the man, who turned out to be the chairman of Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers (CCLK), a nonprofit group that is dedicated to preserving the maritime heritage of the Central Coast and was tasked with helping to preserve the Pt. Sur State Historic Park, site of the iconic Pt. Sur Lighthouse. Part of the restoration involved “remediating” the lead in the paints of all the structures at the historic site, including the lighthouse itself.

His experience working with lead paints got him the job. Jon found a soy-based paint stripper that would reduce (or “remediate”) a paint’s lead level to under 1%. Under the watchful eye of CCLK and representatives from OSHA, Jon was able to complete the complex and ambitious project, much to the delight of the historic preservationists in CCLK.

“That was my first big job, and that got me started on historical work, my bread and butter, that propelled us on,” he said. That led to projects involving the historic Casa Abrego in Monterey,



Provided photo

the Castro House in Aptos, Crespi Hall at the Carmel Mission and even structures in The Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel Valley, and more.

So, in 2004 (he’s been a professional painter since 1992, founded his first company in 1996) he became Jon Stuefloten Restoration Painting, specializing in historic and cultural restoration projects. But not all his work involves historic homes or structures. Many just involve projects that require careful attention to detail, experience in restoration, and an eye for longevity.

“A lot of paint jobs do require some kind of restoration, whether it’s mildew, rot, old paint, and so forth,” he said.

“We bring houses back from the dead.” His favorite project so far has been the Hart House, a striking Queen Anne Victorian, perhaps the most photographed house in Pacific Grove. The owners gave him artistic license to choose the color scheme and trim. The job took 51 days to complete and almost \$5,000 in scaffolding alone.

And his favorite part of the job? Working with homeowners.

“I like working with people and taking their homes and restoring them to better than new,” he said.

And he doesn’t see himself slowing down.

“I turned 80 in November and I’m still going strong,” he said. “I’m looking forward to 2021 and returning to normal. I just want to keep things going.”

## Learn + Earn a FREE Compost Bin



**Easy as 1-2-3**

- 1 - Watch the videos
- 2 - Pledge to compost
- 3 - Earn a FREE compost bin\*

WE’RE GIVING YOU A FREE COMPOST BIN to turn food scraps and plant trimmings into compost at home! Learn how your actions help our community and how to earn your free bin at [SalinasValleyRecycles.org](http://SalinasValleyRecycles.org)



(831) 775-3000  
[info@salinasvalleyrecycles.org](mailto:info@salinasvalleyrecycles.org)



\*Free Compost Bins are available while supplies last to residents of Salinas Valley Recycles service area

## JON STUEFLOTEN IS A MASTER PAINTER AND SPECIALIZES IN HISTORIC RESTORATION

- Restoration Painting
- Color Counseling
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- Wood Graining
- Kitchen Restoration
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- Drywall Repair
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