



Sustainability in Action

## Keeping Your Recycle Cart Contamination-Free

Did you know that putting food waste or trash in the curbside recycle cart can ruin the recyclable material? For example, food waste can make paper and cardboard wet and soggy, preventing them from being recycled. Trash can disrupt a recycling facility's sorting processes, causing some materials to be landfilled. Read on for some tips on how to keep your recycle cart free of potential contamination.

### DO:

- Place only LOOSE (unbagged) recyclables into the recycle cart. If you aren't sure what is recyclable, visit [RepublicServices.com/ClaytonCA](https://www.RepublicServices.com/ClaytonCA).
- Seal household batteries and compact fluorescent light ("CFL") bulbs in clear plastic bags before placing beside your cart. Otherwise, only bag waste that will be placed into your trash cart.
- Break down and flatten boxes before recycling. If needed, cut cardboard into pieces to fit into your recycle cart – lid must be closed.
- Empty food and beverage containers. Wipe or rinse out food residue, as needed. Allow containers to dry before putting them into the recycle cart.
- Compost food scraps and food-soiled paper (like napkins and pizza boxes) in your organics container to comply with Senate Bill ("SB") 1383.

### DON'T:

- Don't overfill carts. Lids must be closed. Save extra materials to be placed in carts the following week or call Customer Service at 925.685.4711 at least three days before your next pickup day to schedule an on-call cleanup.
- Don't place bagged waste or extra materials on top of your carts.
- Don't bag recyclables placed into your recycle cart.
- Don't put any of these items into your recycle cart: food or food scraps; take-out coffee cups; clothing and textiles; hoses and cords; tissues, napkins and paper towels; or household batteries.



AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

NOVEMBER 15

## America Recycles Day 2025

Each year on November 15, millions of people across the United States take part in America Recycles Day. You can help reduce waste and protect our environment by recycling correctly and efficiently; make sure your recyclables are empty, clean, and dry before you put them in your recycling cart.

To learn more about America Recycles Day, visit [EPA.gov/circulareconomy/america-recycles-day](https://www.EPA.gov/circulareconomy/america-recycles-day)

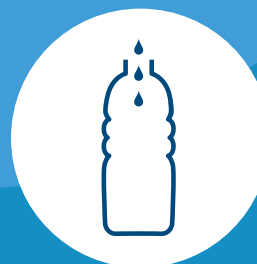
### Empty, Clean, and Dry Recycling



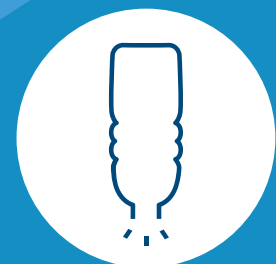
If your recycling or organics cart/bin is contaminated with unacceptable materials, it may not be serviced and your property may be charged a go-back fee.



**Empty.** Remove any remaining food or liquid.



**Clean.** Wipe or lightly rinse the item.



**Dry.** Shake out excess moisture or air dry.



## Landfill



## Recycle



Empty, Clean, and Dry

## Compost



BAGS: Compostable BPI (meets ASTM 6400 Standard); Paper Bags; No Bags

- No Food
- No Paper
- No Green Waste
- No Recyclable Material
- No Hazardous Waste



- No Liquids
- No Textile
- No Carpet
- No Food
- No Green Waste
- No Hazardous Waste
- No Styrofoam®

Recyclables should be loose (no bags). A second recycle cart is available at no charge. Call Customer Service 925.685.4711 to request one.



- No Metal
- No Glass
- No Plastic
- No Hazardous Waste
- No Compostable Utensils Or Cups
- No Pet Waste

Organics should be loose (no bags) or in compostable or paper bags only. No plastic bags. A second green cart is available at no charge. Call Customer Service 925.685.4711 to request one.



## Holiday Service Reminder



Wishing you a safe holiday! Please note that your Republic Services recycling and waste service will not be affected by the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Our drivers will be servicing as normal on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please have your carts at the curb by 5:00 a.m. to ensure service.

We observe Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Thursdays in 2025. Customers who are serviced on Thursday and Friday will experience a service schedule and pickup day delay of one day.

## Join the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge!



The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge is an online platform that helps Contra Costa residents reduce their carbon footprint by providing tips, incentives, and resources. Collect points by taking actions that reduce your household's overall carbon footprint. Earn points to be eligible to receive prizes such as reusable utensils, straws, and bags!

Visit [CleanerContraCosta.org](https://CleanerContraCosta.org) to sign up, or for more information.

**Not sure how to correctly dispose of an item?** Visit [Resource.Stopwaste.org](https://Resource.Stopwaste.org) to get answers and nearby reuse, repair, recycling, and safe disposal options.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Customer Service: 925.685.4711  
[RepublicServices.com/ClaytonCA](https://RepublicServices.com/ClaytonCA)



en Español

Translations available



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