

Garden Grove Recycling & Waste Newsletter



Sustainability in Action

WINTER 2025

RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA | 800.700.8610

Organics Recycling in Garden Grove

Organic waste includes all food scraps, including cooked meat, fish, poultry, bones, fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice, and grains; food-soiled paper, such as greasy pizza boxes, coffee filters, wet paper towels, and soiled napkins; and yard trimmings, including grass clippings, leaves, small branches, plants, weeds, and yard waste.

Residents

If you have carts that are collected curbside by Republic Services, food scraps and food-soiled paper go into your organics cart mixed with yard trimmings. If you live in a multi-family complex with dumpsters, food scraps go into the green or brown organics cart or the organics dumpster with the green or brown lid at your property. Your property should have food waste collection containers. If your property does not, please contact your property management or call Republic Services at **800.700.8610**. Please do not bag food scraps in plastic bags. Place loose food scraps and food-soiled

paper into the designated cart or dumpster. You may use paper bags or newspaper. It is recommended to use a kitchen pail or similar transportable container to take materials from your kitchen to your designated containers for collection by Republic Services.

Over the next few years, replacement carts will reflect the state-defined and mandated color schemes that will be used statewide. All residential carts will be transitioned to the new color scheme by the end of 2027. Single-family residents' existing yard waste cart is now a mixed organics cart for both yard waste and food waste. Your current service day will not change.

Businesses

All commercial businesses should have recycling and organics recycling programs in place. Republic Services offers FREE technical assistance to help you with these recycling programs. Call Republic Services at **714.238.3300** to be connected with a specially trained Sustainability Advisor, who can provide additional advice or assist with adjusting service levels for your business's unique trash and recycling needs.

Inspections

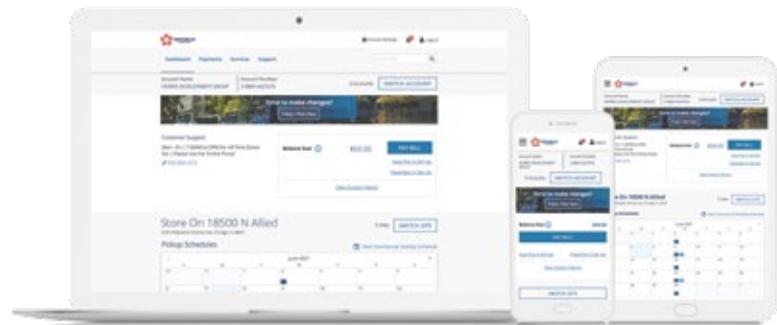
Republic Services will be conducting cart and dumpster inspections throughout the year to ensure proper sorting and disposal of materials. You may see uniformed Republic Services staff reviewing the contents of your recycling, organics, and trash containers. If an improper item is found, a courtesy tag will be placed on the container notifying you of the incorrect item. These educational reviews are mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and will occur on an annual basis. You may receive additional charges if the Garden Grove Sanitary District or Republic Services staff continuously finds improper items in your containers. If you have any questions on how to properly dispose of any materials, please call Republic Services at **714.238.3300**.

Additional Information

For the latest updates regarding organics recycling in Garden Grove, please visit GGcity.org/organics or RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA.

Download the Republic Services App

Republic Services gives you one simple tool to manage your account needs. Visit RepublicServices.com/Account/login to sign up or download the app.



See What Happens to Collected Organics

Instead of going to landfills, collected organics are turned into compost, mulch and renewable energy, creating beneficial products and reducing methane emissions. If you would like to see how this process works, we can help. Republic Services has videos about how residential and commercial organics are processed after collection. Check them out!

- Residential Organics – bit.ly/3vW07Ci
- Commercial Organics – bit.ly/3ZJbT70

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIELD, IN
PERMIT NO. 220

Republic Services
1131 N. Blue Gum Street
Anaheim, CA 92806

Edible Food Recovery



To further reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, SB 1383 requires that certain California businesses recover or rescue 20% of surplus edible food to feed people in need by 2025. The law directs food-generating businesses to recover the maximum amount of their edible food that would otherwise go to landfills, have an agreement with a food recovery organization, and maintain records of their food donation activities for review upon inspection or request by designated agency staff. SB 1383 places mandated food donors or generators into two tiers. All tiered edible food generators, such as wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers, and grocery stores, as well as some cafeterias, restaurants, and venues, are required to comply.

Locally, Abound Food Care (formerly known as Waste Not OC), a partnership of nonprofits, public agencies, and private businesses, is working with Republic Services and the Garden Grove Sanitary District to ensure that surplus food feeds hungry people in our community. Abound Food Care provides system-wide solutions to help food generators channel excess edible food to communities rather than landfills. By reducing food insecurity and food waste, we are improving the health of our communities and the environment. Visit Aboundfoodcare.org to learn more.

Mark Your Calendar for the Compost Giveaway

Compost creates healthier soil by adding back nutrient-rich organic matter and improving soil structure. Healthy soil uses water more efficiently, allowing available water to flow toward your plants' roots, storing water in the soil longer, and reducing runoff and erosion.

The City of Garden Grove and Republic Services will offer free compost on Saturday, February 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and again on April 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (or until the compost runs out). The event will take place at the Garden Grove Municipal Service Center, located at 13802 Newhope St. Please bring your own containers or buckets for Republic Services staff to fill with compost. This event will be held rain or shine but may be subject to changes or postponement for other reasons. For updates, visit RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA or GGcity.org/organics.

To receive free compost, residents must provide proof of residency (California driver's license or utility bill). There is a limit of 60 gallons of compost per household.

For more information, contact Republic Services at **714.238.3300**.



Credit: Cat_Chat | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Break Down Those Boxes

Please remember to break down and flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes. Breaking down boxes saves room and prevents materials from getting stuck in your recycling container. Second, it keeps items from getting caught inside the box. At the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), staff members and machines work together to identify and sort materials as they travel rapidly over and through equipment. When other recyclables are inside boxes, they are not visible and cannot be separated by category, leading to contaminated bales of boxes and lost recyclables. Thank you for your help and support of recycling!



Credit: Im Yeongsik | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Free Community Cleanup Drop-Off Days



The City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Sanitary District, in partnership with Republic Services, will be hosting a series of community cleanup days throughout the Sanitary District to help residents properly dispose of furniture, bulk items, non-refrigerant appliances, scrap metal, electronic waste, tree limbs (4-foot length maximum), brush, leaves, and lawn clippings at no additional cost.

These are self-service events in which residents will be unloading their own items. All cleanups are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

- Saturday, January 18 – Pacifica High School, 6851 Lampson Ave.
- Saturday, March 15 – Skylark Elementary School, 11250 Mac Murray St.
- Saturday, May 17 – Garden Grove Park, 9301 Westminster Ave.
- Saturday, July 19 – The location is to be determined.

- Saturday, September 13 – H. Louis Lake Senior Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.
- Saturday, November 8 – Garden Grove Municipal Service Center, 13802 Newhope St.

Items that will not be accepted include hazardous waste (such as paints, oils, chemicals, pesticides, batteries, or LED lights); construction and demolition materials (such as concrete, dirt, rocks, brick, asphalt, sand, or treated/painted wood); tires; large appliances (such as refrigerators, freezers, and AC units); and palm fronds. For a full list of unacceptable items, visit GGcity.org/cleanup-days.

Dates and locations are weather permitting and may be subject to change. Check the City website and social platforms for updates, or call **714.741.5344** for more information.

Recycling Access for Customers and Employees in Food Service

Under Assembly Bill 827, limited-service restaurants in California must provide customers with visible, clearly marked and easily accessible containers for recyclables and organics (uneaten food scraps, soiled paper, and similar items) adjacent to trash bins. Full-service restaurants must provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption. You can download container and cabinet labels from RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources.

If you have questions about business recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at **714.238.3300**.



Reducing Food Waste at Home

Food waste is a problem that affects both our economy and the environment. A significant portion of food waste occurs at the household level. Reducing food waste at home is not just a personal responsibility, but also a step toward a more sustainable planet. Here are some tips for minimizing food waste in your home.

Plan Your Meals

- **Create a Shopping List:** Plan your meals for the week, make a shopping list, and stick to it. This helps you avoid impulse buying and ensures you buy only what you need.
- **Use a Meal Planner:** Meal planning apps and tools can help you organize and plan your meals effectively.

Store Food Properly

- **Use Proper Containers:** Store food in airtight containers to keep it fresh longer.
- **Understand Food Labels:** Learn the difference between “sell by,” “use by,” and “best by” dates, and don’t throw away food that is still good to eat.
- **Rotate Your Stock:** Practice the “first in, first out” method to ensure that older products are used before newer ones.

Cook Smarter

- **Cook in Appropriate Portions:** Cook only the amount you need to avoid leftovers that may go to waste.



- **Repurpose Leftovers:** Be creative with your leftovers by transforming them into new meals.
- **Freeze What You Can’t Eat:** If you have excess food, freeze it for later instead of tossing it out.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- **Use Food Scraps:** Utilize peels, stems and other parts of vegetables and fruits in broths or as part of other recipes.
- **Compost Your Scraps:** Add fruit and vegetable scraps to your backyard compost or vermicompost bin.
- **Recycle Packaging:** Be mindful of packaging, and choose products with recyclable or minimal packaging.

Properly Dispose of Your Batteries and Household Hazardous Waste

You can help reduce the risk of fires and protect our soil and waterways by properly disposing of all household batteries, hazardous waste, and electronics. Here’s what you need to do:



- When you remove batteries from devices and prepare to discard them, tape over the terminal ends with clear packing tape. Bag your batteries in a sealable plastic bag.
- Separate household hazardous chemicals, including pesticides and fertilizers, oil-based paint, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, and similar items, from other waste.
- Set aside old electronic devices, such as computers, televisions, laptops, tablets, smartphones, and wireless speakers.
- Do not place any of these items into your recycling, yard waste, or trash carts or dumpsters!
- Deliver batteries, household chemicals, and electronics to one of Orange County’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. These items are accepted at no charge for Orange County residents. For additional details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous) or call **714.834.6752**.
- You can also drop off batteries at the Garden Grove City Hall and the Garden Grove Police Department lobby between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday–Thursday, and every other Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit [Call2Recycle.org](https://call2recycle.org) for additional drop-off locations.

Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed on major holidays and during rainy weather)

Locations:

1071 N. Blue Gum St., Anaheim, 92806
17121 Nichols Ln., Gate 6, Huntington Beach, 92647
6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, 92618
32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, 92675

[OCLandfills.com/hazardous](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous)

Materials Exchange Program

Orange County residents can take home partially used household, yard, and car care products for FREE.

It’s easy!

You don’t need to drop anything off to pick up an item. Be sure to stop at any of our four centers next time you need any products for a project. You can choose up to five items per week, per household. That way we have enough free items for everyone who uses the Material Exchange Program. It’s easy and it’s FREE!

[OCLandfills.com/hazardous-waste/materials-exchange-program](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste/materials-exchange-program)

Medication Disposal

Unused or expired medications left in your home can lead to accidental poisoning or allow access for misuse of the medications. Many local drugstores accept medications for proper disposal. You can quickly search online for “medication disposal near me” to locate permanent disposal locations nearby. For more details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal).



BATTERY BEWARE

TAKE CHARGE. STAY SAFE.

DON'T Recycle or Trash Lithium Batteries at Home

Lithium batteries are extremely popular because they are reliable and long-lasting. These types of batteries are found in a wide range of devices, including cell phones, power tools, laptops, tablets, children’s toys, scooters, electric toothbrushes and more.



PREVENT FIRES

Lithium and lithium-ion batteries, which are made from highly flammable materials, can pose a serious fire risk.¹ If overheated, punctured or faulty, these batteries can cause fires or explode.



PROTECT PEOPLE

Lithium battery fires are incredibly difficult to extinguish and may reignite days later. When batteries fail, they can release toxic gases that endanger individuals in their homes and workplaces.

DO'S & DON'TS

- DON'T** Overcharge lithium batteries or leave them plugged in overnight.
- DON'T** Throw away lithium batteries in the trash.
- DON'T** Try to recycle lithium batteries at home.
- DO** Store batteries between 40°F and 80°F.
- DO** Cover battery terminals with electrical tape and/or place them in separate plastic bags when disposing.
- DO** Dispose of lithium-ion batteries at designated recycling or household hazardous waste collection centers.



LEARN MORE AT:
RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries



Sustainability in Action

1. https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/sl/lithium_fire_prevention_sl093.pdf

You Are the Solution to Runoff Pollution



Water in the storm drains is not treated before it is released into our creeks, rivers, and oceans and must never contain wash water, oil, gasoline, antifreeze, grease, metals, or other pollutants!

Do your part, and prevent these materials from entering the curb in front of your home or business. To report materials other than water entering the storm drain system, please contact:

24-Hour Pollution Reporting
877.89.SPILL (877.897.7455) • myOCeservices.ocgov.com
Garden Grove Public Works Environmental Services
714.741.5375 • GGcity.org/environmental-compliance

Understanding Self-Hauling Options in Garden Grove

The Garden Grove Sanitary District (GGSD) has strict rules for residents and businesses who want to handle their own trash and recycling. Self-hauling is allowed only if specific requirements are met, as outlined in the GGSD Code of Regulations. If you're considering this option, it's important to understand what's involved. For details on the permit requirements, call the Garden Grove Recycling Hotline at **714.741.5344**.

Contact Us

**Collection Service, Billing,
Public Disposal Center**
800.700.8610

Household Hazardous Waste
714.834.6752

Residential Motor Oil Collection
800.449.7587

**Street Sweeping Citation,
Storm Drains, Sewers**
714.741.5375

*Republic Services is the **sole provider** of waste services in the City of Garden Grove.*

RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA



Holiday Tree Collection

Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services for three weeks beginning Thursday, December 26, 2024. Be sure to take off all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and garlands, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb or next to the dumpsters in your complex. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection. No flocked trees will be accepted for recycling.

If you don't take your tree down until late January, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your organics container with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your organics container. The wreaths and greenery must also be bare, so please remove all wires, hooks, bows and other decorations. Collected trees and greenery are turned into mulch, compost, and ground cover.



If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you are discarding an artificial tree or wreath or a flocked tree, please place it into the trash container, or schedule a bulk item pickup. Artificial trees and wreaths and flocked trees are not recyclable and will be sent to a landfill.

Bulk Item Pickup

Republic Services provides both **single-family and multi-family residents** with convenient pickups for bulk items and electronics by appointment. Each household may request up to three bulk item pickups per year, with a total of 10 items accepted per pickup, at no additional cost. To schedule this service, simply call Republic Services Customer Service at **800.700.8610** at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to request a bulk item pickup. Once you have made the call, a truck will be scheduled to collect your bulk items on your next regular collection day.



Single-family residents should place items at the curb after scheduling a pickup. Please attach a "Scheduled for Pickup" sign (available at **Bit.ly/3tbDCLi**) to your bulk items to let our driver know you have scheduled this service. Do not block sidewalks or obstruct traffic. If you live in a multi-family complex, check with your property manager to determine the best location for pickup.

Report Illegal Dumping

When you spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the City. If you see someone dumping illegally, do not confront them. If possible, discreetly take a photo of the activity. Write down a description of the person, as well as vehicle make, color, and license plate number. Call the City's Public Works Department at **714.741.5375** or the Garden Grove Police Department's non-emergency number, **714.741.5704**, to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our community looking good for residents and visitors.



한국어로 나왔습니다.



Disponibile en español



Có sẵn bằng tiếng Việt