

La Habra Heights Recycling & Waste Newsletter



Sustainability in Action

WINTER 2024

RepublicServices.com/municipality/la-habra-heights-ca | 866.238.2444

Let's Talk About Recycling!

RECYCLE

Acceptable Items (Empty, Clean and Dry)



Unacceptable Items



Over the past few months, recycling has been in the news. Some of the stories sound dire. For example, maybe you've heard that much of the plastic produced is never recycled. That's true, because much of the plastic produced makes durable goods — from auto parts to kitchen containers — that are used for decades. However, what that story

didn't tell you is that about one-third of plastic packaging, such as bottles, jugs, jars and tubs, is recycled each year. It also didn't tell you that manufacturers who use those plastics could use more of them! The same is true for glass bottles and jars, which can become new bottles and jars, as well as fiberglass. Again, manufacturers could use more of our old bottles. Sometimes, news stories don't tell the whole story.

We can assure you that the materials we collect are recycled. We will continue to accept materials, sort them and deliver them to markets where manufacturers turn them into new products.

Your recycling continues to conserve natural resources, reduce water and air pollution in manufacturing, save energy, and create many jobs. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the U.S. scrap industry supports more than 506,000 American jobs. More than 70% of recyclables nationwide are used in U.S. factories. Energy savings achieved by using recycled instead of virgin materials in manufacturing range from 34% for glass, to 96% for aluminum.

So keep recycling! Recycling is still a great way to care for our environment and support our economy.

Mark Your Calendar for the Compost Giveaway

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

The City of La Habra Heights and Republic Services will be giving away compost for free on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. (or until compost runs out), at Hacienda Park, 1885 Hacienda Road in La Habra Heights. 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 still be subject to changes or postponement. For updates, visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/la-habra-heights-ca.



Credit: Cat_Chat | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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 **866.238.2444**.

Guidelines for Great Recycling

- **Know What's Recyclable** – In La Habra Heights, place all clean, dry paper in your recycling cart. This includes cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspaper, office paper, school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags, shredded paper (bagged) and wrapping paper with no metal. Also, recycle metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs and containers in the same cart.
- **Label Bins Clearly** – Inside your home, label your recycling bins clearly to remind everyone what can and cannot be recycled. Simple, visible labels can make a big difference.
- **Empty, Clean and Dry** – Empty bottles and other containers, remove excess residue, rinse them out, and allow them to air-dry.
- **Keep It Loose** – Don't bag your recycling. Place all items loose into the recycling cart.
- **Avoid Hazardous Materials** – Never put hazardous waste, like batteries, chemicals or medical sharps, into your recycling cart. These items can put drivers and facility workers at risk and can damage equipment.

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIELD, IN
PERMIT NO. 220

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

Reducing Food Waste at Home



Credit: AJ_Watt | E+ | Getty Images

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 practical strategies and 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 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 fruit in broths or as part of other recipes.
- **Compost Your Scraps:** Compost fruit and vegetable scraps in a backyard compost or vermicompost bin.
- **Recycle Packaging:** Be mindful of packaging, and choose products with recyclable or minimal packaging.

Reducing food waste at home requires conscious effort, planning and creativity. By incorporating these strategies, you can positively impact the environment, save money, and enjoy a more mindful and sustainable lifestyle.

Planning a Party?

No one wants to host a party and run out of food. As a result, we tend to make the opposite mistake — overbuying and over-preparing. By properly estimating how much food you need, you can save yourself time and money. Plus, you’ll reduce waste and unwanted leftovers. To calculate what you’ll need for your next party or celebration, use the “Guest-imator” tool at [SavetheFood.com/guestimator](https://www.savethefood.com/guestimator).

Organics Recycling in La Habra Heights

You may have heard about new organics recycling programs that have been rolling out across the state of California. Every city is taking a unique approach to organics recycling. Because of the size of our city and the collection challenges here for food waste, the City of La Habra Heights requested a waiver from the State of California, which was granted and will be in effect for four more years. Under this waiver, La Habra Heights is not required to implement citywide collection services for food scraps and food-soiled paper at this time.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Reduce your food waste by consuming the food you buy, enjoying and repurposing leftovers, and composting.
- Reduce landscape debris by letting grass clippings drop back onto the lawn as you mow and composting in your backyard. In addition to landscape trimmings and leaves, you can also compost fruit and vegetable scraps. Compost helps create healthier soil that uses water more efficiently, leading to beautiful and productive gardens. You can learn more about backyard composting at [SmartGardening.com](https://www.smartgardening.com).
- Use your yard waste cart for limbs, branches, leaves, grass clippings, weeds, other plant material and small scrap wood (no painted or treated wood). Branches and wood must be no more than 4 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet long. Palm fronds, cacti and other succulents, rocks, soil, pet waste, recyclables and trash are not accepted in the yard waste cart.



Credit: terra24 | iStock | Getty Images

Make Your New Year’s Resolutions More Sustainable

From plastic production to carbon emissions, even our small decisions make a big impact on the planet.

RESOLUTION
Drink more water

MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE
Did you know Americans buy 50 billion water bottles per year?¹

- Purchase a refillable bottle
- At home, drink from a glass instead

RESOLUTION
Eat healthy

MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE
Eating a plant-based diet once or more each week aids in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

- Start a backyard garden
- Compost
- Plan meatless Monday

RESOLUTION
Exercise

MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE
Exercising outside means you avoid the commute to the gym and save energy since no equipment needs to be plugged in.

- Walk, bike or run outside
- Try body weight or mat-based exercises

RESOLUTION
Save money

MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE
Redecorating? Shop your own house before you buy new. Find ways to use old items in a new way.

- Repurpose items around the house
- Share a car

RESOLUTION
Get organized

MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE
Consignment shops and charities in your area may take gently used furniture, toys, clothes and other household goods.

- Clean out the house and donate unwanted items
- Reuse cardboard boxes as closet or garage organizers

RESOLUTION
Be intentional

MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE
Shipping takes a toll on the planet. When you shop online, recycle cardboard from boxes.

- Recycle
- Don't impulse shop

Help Reduce the Risk of Fires

On a sunny day last December in Southern California, a Republic Services driver noticed smoke rolling out of the back of his collection truck. He immediately contacted his dispatcher, who alerted the fire department. Knowing that the situation could quickly get out of control, the driver moved away from overhanging trees, parked cars and other objects. The truck wasn't near a parking lot or open space, so the driver had to empty the load onto a neighborhood street where the fire could be put out. After the fire was extinguished, additional crews came out to haul away the material for disposal. The driver's rapid response prevented injuries, as well as damage to the truck and neighboring properties.



It appeared that a small lithium-ion battery pack was to blame for this truck fire. Batteries and other ignitable materials can start fires inside curbside carts, collection trucks and waste facilities. Lithium-ion batteries, which are found in many rechargeable devices, like cell phones, laptops and headphones, are the most common cause of fires.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing curbside trash, they are likely to be mangled. Mechanized trucks typically crush waste when picking it up. At materials recovery facilities (MRFs), items travel across conveyors and tumble through a series of sorting machines. At landfills, waste is compacted by heavy equipment. The fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries not only cause damage to vehicles or facilities, but they also result in injuries to firefighters, monetary loss and service disruptions in the community. In addition to posing fire hazards, when we trash our portable devices and their batteries, we cannot reuse the beneficial and often rare materials they contain in new products.

We can all do our part to ensure we properly dispose of these batteries to keep our community safe. Household battery recycling is free and easy through the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Program, as well as at some local retail stores. For retail locations, visit [Call2Recycle.org](https://www.call2recycle.org).

Tips for Safe Disposal of Batteries, Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste

- 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!
- Dispose of batteries, household chemicals and electronics properly through the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Program. These items are accepted at no charge. Proof of county residence is required. For locations and other details, visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com).



Credit: Anton Novikov | iStock | Getty Images

Bulk Item Pickup

Furniture and old appliances are among the most common items illegally dumped along roadways, in parks and on vacant lots. However, there is no need to dump these items improperly. The City of La Habra Heights and Republic Services provide residents with convenient pickup at the side of the road for bulk items and electronics by appointment. To schedule this service, simply call Republic Services Customer Service at **866.238.2444** 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.

If you spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the City of La Habra Heights. 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 the vehicle make, color and license plate number. Call the Police Department's nonemergency number to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our city looking good for residents and visitors.

What Do I Do With Old Paint?

Oil-based paint is considered hazardous waste and should be disposed of through the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Program. Latex paint is not hazardous. However, liquid paint cannot go into your trash cart. You have several options for proper disposal of latex paint.

- Mix kitty litter or paint hardener into the paint. Allow the paint to dry out and harden. Dispose of the can and lid in your trash. (Remember — never place liquid paint in the trash!)
- Recycle paint through California's Paint Care program. For locations and other details, visit [PaintCare.org](https://www.paintcare.org).
- Dispose of paint through the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Program. For locations and other details, visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com).



Credit: RedBarnStudio | E+ | Getty Images



Meet Mitch Kopczyk

As General Manager, Mitch Kopczyk is responsible for all operations in the Anaheim and Santa Ana Hauling Divisions. He ensures that all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances are met and is responsible for managing all programs to provide the highest levels of service in the safest manner possible. Mr. Kopczyk joined the Republic Services team in 2014 and has worked in multiple locations across the country in Texas, Florida, Oklahoma and California.

Join the Republic Services Family

Republic Services is always looking for talented, hard-working employees. If you would like to stay close to home and advance in a well-paying career, consider joining our team. Available jobs in our region include drivers, equipment operators, mechanics, shop technicians, material sorters, laborers, customer service specialists, dispatchers, recycling coordinators, sales representatives, office support staff members and more. To see and apply for open positions, visit RepublicServices.jobs.

Contact Us

Collection Service, Billing,
Public Disposal Center
866.238.2444

Household Hazardous Waste
888.CLEAN.LA (888.253.2652)



RepublicServices.com/municipality/la-habra-heights-ca

Recycle Your Holiday Tree



Credit: SKatzenberger | iStock | Getty Images

Real holiday trees will be accepted and removed at no additional charge by Republic Services from Wednesday, January 3, through Friday, January 12, 2024. There will also be a 30-yard dumpster for Christmas tree drop-off at Hacienda Park, 1885 Hacienda Road, through Saturday, January 20, 2024. Be sure to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel and garlands, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the side of your road. 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 down your tree until later in January, please cut it into pieces that will fit into

your yard waste cart or dumpster with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your yard waste cart or dumpster. 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 cart or dumpster, or schedule a bulk item pickup. Artificial trees and wreaths and flocked trees are not recyclable.

Holiday Collection Schedule

- New Year's Day – Monday, January 1, 2024 (no service delay)
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2024 (no service delay)
- Independence Day – Thursday, July 4, 2024 (service delayed one day)
- Labor Day – Monday, September 2, 2024 (no service delay)
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28, 2024 (service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (no service delay)

Quarterly Cleanup Events

The City of La Habra Heights and Republic Services will be hosting quarterly cleanups at Hacienda Park, 1885 Hacienda Road in La Habra Heights, from 8 a.m. to noon on these dates:

- Saturday, January 20, 2024
- Saturday, April 27, 2024
- Saturday, July 27, 2024
- Saturday, October 19, 2024

At these events, residents may drop off bagged or bundled yard waste, tree limbs cut into 4-foot lengths, furniture, mattresses, appliances, small scrap metal and electronics. You will be expected to unload your own materials from your vehicle and separate them by material type into the proper dumpster or collection area. No tires, hazardous chemicals, construction debris, rocks, concrete or palm fronds will be accepted.

These events are for residents of the City of La Habra Heights only. You must provide proof of residency (California driver's license/ID or City utility bill).

For more information, check the City's website, LHHCity.org, or visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/la-habra-heights-ca.