

# Villa Park Recycling & Waste Newsletter



**REPUBLIC**  
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

SPRING 2025

[RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca](https://RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca) | 800.700.8610

## Organics Recycling in Villa Park



Credit: terra24 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a California state law aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by targeting short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane gas. Enacted in 2016, it places significant regulations on organic waste, including food and yard waste, and mandates that businesses and local governments divert this waste from landfills through composting and

other sustainable practices. The law also establishes a goal of reducing the volume of organic waste disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025.

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 garden waste. It's important to note that animal feces and deceased rodents are not organic waste and should be placed in the tan trash cart, not the organics recycling cart.

### Residents

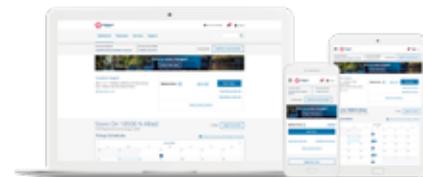
If you have curbside carts, food scraps and food-soiled paper now go into your brown cart with yard trimmings. Please do not bag food scraps in plastic, compostable or biodegradable collection bags, as they are not allowed in the cart. Place loose food scraps and food-soiled paper into the cart or dumpster. You may use paper bags or wrap food scraps in newspaper. If you do not have all three carts (tan cart for trash, green cart for recycling and brown cart for organics), please call Republic Services Customer Service at **714.238.3300** to set up delivery of the carts you need.

### Businesses

Businesses must also have organics recycling programs. If your business or commercial property does not yet have an organics recycling cart or dumpster, please contact Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.

## Download the Republic Services App

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



## Simple Steps for Organics Recycling Success at Home

- Separate food scraps and food-soiled paper from the recycling and trash in your kitchen.
- Put scraps into a container with a lid to reduce odors. If you wish, you can freeze or refrigerate the scraps.
- Do NOT bag scraps in plastic, compostable or biodegradable collection bags. You may use paper bags or wrap scraps in newspaper to absorb liquids.
- Place loose food scraps and food-soiled paper into your organics cart.
- Keep the curbside cart cleaner by placing cardboard, leaves or other yard clippings in the bottom, adding food scraps, and then layering more yard clippings on top. You can also sprinkle baking soda at the bottom to reduce odor.
- Place all organics inside your cart and close the lid — no material should be sticking out of the top or sitting on the ground.

To learn more about proper disposal of organics, recycling and trash in Villa Park, please visit [RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca](https://RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca).

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# Reducing Food Waste at Home



Credit: Marcos Elihu Castillo Ramirez | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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 it is 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.

# 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](https://RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources).

# Food Donation Requirements for Businesses

To reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires that California 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 and to maintain records of their food donation activities. SB 1383 places mandated food donors into two tiers. As of January 1, 2024, large food businesses, such as wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers and grocery stores, as well as cafeterias, restaurants and venues, are required to comply.

Many food recovery organizations serve Orange County and are available to partner with businesses that have surplus food. For more details and a list of these organizations, visit [Oclandfills.com/environmental-programs/recycling/edible-food-recovery](https://Oclandfills.com/environmental-programs/recycling/edible-food-recovery).

## Commercial Edible Food Generators

Tier 1	Tier 2
<p><b>Supermarkets</b> A full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of \$2 million or more, and which sells a line of dry grocery, canned goods, or nonfood items and some perishable items.</p>	<p><b>Local Education Agency</b> A local education agency is defined as a school district, charter school, or county office of education, with an on-site food facility, that is not subject to the control of city or county regulations related to solid waste.</p>
<p><b>Grocery Stores</b> Grocery store with a total facility size equal to or greater than 10,000 square feet.</p>	<p><b>State Agencies</b> State agencies with a cafeteria with 250 or more seats or a total cafeteria facility size equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet.</p>
<p><b>Food Service Providers</b> An entity primarily engaged in providing food services to institutional, governmental, commercial, or industrial locations of others based on contractual arrangements with these types of organizations.</p>	<p><b>Restaurants</b> Restaurant with 250 or more seats, or a total facility size equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet.</p>
<p><b>Food Distributors</b> A company that distributes food to entities including, but not limited to, supermarkets and grocery stores.</p>	<p><b>Hotels</b> Hotel with an on-site food facility and 200 or more rooms.</p>
<p><b>Wholesale Food Vendors</b> A business or establishment engaged in the merchant wholesale distribution of food, where food (including fruits and vegetables) is received, shipped, stored, and prepared for distribution to a retailer, warehouse, distributor, or other destination.</p>	<p><b>Health Facilities</b> Health facility with an on-site food facility and 100 or more beds.</p>
<p>Sustainability in Action</p>	
	<p><b>Large Venues</b> Large venue means a permanent venue facility that annually seats or serves an average of more than 2,000 individuals within the grounds of the facility per day of operation.</p>
	<p><b>Large Events</b> Large event means an event including, but not limited to, a sporting event or a flea market, that charges an admission price, or is operated by a local agency, and serves an average of more than 2,000 individuals per day of operation of the event, at a location that includes, but is not limited to, a public, nonprofit, or privately owned park, parking lot, golf course, street system, or other open space when being used for an event.</p>

# Break Down Those Boxes

Please break down and flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes. First, it will save a lot of room in your recycling cart. 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 aren’t visible and can’t be separated by category, leading to contaminated bales of boxes and lost recyclable containers. Thank you for your help!



Credit: Im Yeongsik | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Saying Goodbye to Bulk Items

The City of Villa Park and Republic Services provide residents with a convenient pickup option for bulk items and electronics.

**Single-Family Units:** By appointment, Republic Services provides pickup for large items at the curb. Residents may request up to three (3) bulk item pickups at no charge during each calendar year. The pickup is limited to 20 bulk items each collection day. 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 the following regular collection day or within approximately seven days.



**Commercial Premises:** For a fee, bulk item pickups are available by appointment. Call Republic Services Customer Service at **800.700.8610** for details and to schedule.

## Report Illegal Dumping



Credit: terra24 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Not only are illegally dumped items unsightly, but they can also create health and safety hazards and decrease property values. Here's what you can do to help prevent and clean up illegal dumping.

- When you see litter, pick it up. An area that is clean and clear of litter is more likely to stay that way.
- Use appropriate carts for all organics, recycling and trash.
- Don't set large items that need to be disposed of, such as appliances or furniture, outside until after you make a call to schedule a bulk item pickup.
- When you spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location, and report it to the City of Villa Park.
- 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 and/or vehicle, as well as the license plate number. Call the Orange County Sheriff's non-emergency number at **714.647.7000** to report this activity.
- Take part in community cleanup programs to help keep your city looking good for residents and visitors.

## Safely Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste



Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any product in your home that could be poisonous or dangerous if thrown into the trash. HHW includes car and lawn care products, paints and paint thinners, cleaning supplies, solvents and more. Never toss HHW into the trash. HHW can endanger children or pets, result in spills in your neighborhood, or cause fires in collection trucks if it is placed into curbside carts.

Orange County residents can dispose of HHW for FREE at any of the county's four HHW Collection Centers. Electronic waste items, such as televisions, computers, tablets and cell phones, are also accepted at these centers. Proof of county residence is required.

Homebound seniors and disabled residents of Orange County may qualify for scheduled pickups of HHW. If you need more information about this special assistance, please call **714.834.4000**.

## 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

## Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with state law, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual contamination monitoring reviews. Representatives in clearly identified uniforms will be in the community reviewing the contents of organics, recycling and trash carts and dumpsters. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the cart or dumpster identifying the incorrect items. Contamination fees will be assessed upon the fourth notification for residents and upon the second notification for commercial properties. Please note that these reviews are mandated by state law and will occur on an annual basis. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

# California Recycling Laws for Businesses

**Recyclables:** Assembly Bill (AB) 341 makes recycling mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of waste per week and multi-family properties with five or more units. Under AB 341, businesses and properties must recycle paper, boxes, cans, bottles and containers, as well as recyclable items that are unique to their operations. Senate Bill (SB) 1383 expands on this requirement, making recycling of clean paper and cardboard mandatory at all businesses and multi-family properties, regardless of size.

**Organics:** Under SB 1383 and AB 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Under these laws, organics include food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings. All businesses and multi-family properties should now be participating in organics recycling programs.

**For Assistance:** You can learn more about these requirements at [CalRecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial](http://CalRecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial).



## See What Happens to Collected Organics

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

- Residential Organics: [Bit.ly/3vW07Ci](https://bit.ly/3vW07Ci)
- Commercial Organics: [Bit.ly/3ZjbT70](https://bit.ly/3ZjbT70)



## Holiday Collection Schedule

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1, 2026 (service delayed one day)

### Contact Us

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

**Household Hazardous Waste**  
714.834.6752

**Street Sweeping Citation, Storm Drains, Sewers**  
714.998.1500

[RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca](http://RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca)



Sustainability in Action

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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](http://RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries)

1. [https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/sil/lithium\\_fire\\_prevention\\_sl093.pdf](https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/sil/lithium_fire_prevention_sl093.pdf)



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