

# City of Seal Beach Recycling & Waste Newsletter



WINTER 2025

714.847.3581

## Organics Recycling Changes Coming Soon

### Why Is It Important to Recycle Organics?

Currently, two-thirds of organic material is landfilled. As organics break down in landfills, they create methane, a powerful greenhouse gas the state of California has identified as a factor in climate change.

### What Happens Next?

New organics recycling programs are rolling out across the state of California. Every city is developing a unique food waste and yard waste recycling program. In Seal Beach, the new program is anticipated to begin for residents in 2025. In the meantime, please follow these guidelines.

- Recycle all clean, dry paper in your recycling cart or dumpster. This includes cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, 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. Under Assembly Bill (AB) 341, many businesses and multi-family properties are already required to recycle paper, along with plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans.

- Reduce landscape debris by letting grass clippings drop back onto the lawn as you mow and by 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.
- 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.
- Certain properties may qualify for approval of a landscape hauler designation or self-hauling permit. For inquiries regarding self-haul program requirements, please contact the City of Seal Beach at [AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov](mailto:AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov).
- Contact Republic Services to ensure you have properly sized carts or dumpsters and the correct type and frequency of collection services in place to meet the requirements of AB 341, AB 1826, and SB 1383.

## What Is SB 1383?



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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.

## 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. Check them out!

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

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# California Recycling Laws for Businesses



## Tips for Curbside Collection

### Do

- Close the lids on all of your carts.
- Bag waste that will be placed into your trash cart.
- Toss only LOOSE recyclables into the recycling cart. If you aren't sure what is recyclable, visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](https://www.RecyclingSimplified.com).
- Break down and flatten boxes before recycling.
- Empty food and beverage containers. Wipe or rinse out food residue as needed. Allow containers to dry before putting them into the recycling cart.
- For additional details about curbside collection, visit [RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA](https://www.RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA).

### Don't

- Don't place bagged waste on top of your trash cart.
- Don't bag your recycling.
- Don't overfill carts. Save extra materials to be placed into carts the following week.
- Don't put any of these items into your recycling cart: plastic bags; food; takeout coffee cups; clothing and textiles; hoses and cords; tissues, napkins and paper towels; household batteries; or paint.

- **Recyclables:** 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.
- **Organics:** Under AB 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Organics include both food scraps and yard debris. Organics recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate 2 or more cubic yards of solid waste (recyclables, trash and organics) per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.
- **Customer Recycling:** Under AB 827, limited-service restaurants in California must now 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 need to provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption.

## How to Safely Dispose of Your Batteries

Batteries are indispensable in our daily lives, powering everything from our smartphones and laptops to remote controls and children's toys. These compact energy sources offer the convenience of portable power, enabling us to stay connected and productive on the go. However, despite their usefulness, batteries can pose significant risks if not handled properly.

Batteries, particularly lithium-ion types, can be hazardous when mismanaged. Overcharging, physical damage and improper disposal can lead to serious issues, including fires in the collection trucks and facilities, chemical leaks and costs to repair the damage. When a battery is overcharged or left plugged in overnight, it can overheat, leading to potential explosions or fires. Similarly, physical damage to a battery can cause it to leak harmful chemicals, posing a risk to human health and the environment.

Avoid overcharging lithium-ion batteries by unplugging devices once they are fully charged, and never leave them plugged in overnight. This practice helps prevent overheating and extends the battery's lifespan. Second, store batteries in a cool, dry place,



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ideally between 40 and 80 degrees. Extreme temperatures can degrade battery performance and increase the risk of leakage or combustion.

When it's time to dispose of your batteries, cover the battery terminals with electrical tape or place each battery in a separate plastic bag. This step helps prevent accidental contact between terminals, reducing the risk of sparks or short circuits. Finally, never throw batteries in the regular trash. Instead, dispose of them at one of Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers, located at 17121 Nichols Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 (Gate 6). The center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Commercial Edible Food Generators

Tier 1	Tier 2
<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.	<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.
<b>Grocery Stores</b> Grocery store with a total facility size equal to or greater than 10,000 square feet.	<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.
<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.	<b>Restaurants</b> Restaurant with 250 or more seats, or a total facility size equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet.
<b>Food Distributors</b> A company that distributes food to entities including, but not limited to, supermarkets and grocery stores.	<b>Hotels</b> Hotel with an on-site food facility and 200 or more rooms.
<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.	<b>Health Facilities</b> Health facility with an on-site food facility and 100 or more beds.
	<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.
	<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.

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## 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 it is 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 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.

## See Something? Say Something!



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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 Seal Beach via the MySealBeach app.
- 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 location, person and/or vehicle, as well as the license plate number. Call the Police Department's non-emergency number at **562.594.7232** to report this activity.
- Take part in community cleanup programs to help keep your city looking good for residents and visitors.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Edison Community Gardens Cleanup Days

Friday, March 14,  
from 8 a.m. to noon

Saturday, June 7,  
from 8 a.m. to noon

- **Run Seal Beach on Saturday, April 5** – This year's event will mark the 51st anniversary of this long-standing walk/run. All proceeds benefit the greater Seal Beach community through grants and awards. Learn more, and register at **RunSealBeach.com**



- **Car Show on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – The Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the 37th annual Seal Beach Classic Car show, which will showcase more than 600 classic cars, hot rods, custom cars and antiques.
- **Summer Kick-Off in June** – The Recreation and Community Services Department hosts a Summer Kick-Off featuring fun family activities in Edison Park. To learn more, contact the Recreation and Community Services Department at **communityservices@sealbeachca.gov** or call **562.431.2527, ext. 1307**.
- **Monthly Produce Donation Program** – During the summer months (June, July, August), we will partner with Food Finders to provide a monthly produce donation program. The program will take place on the last Friday of each month, allowing gardeners to donate any excess food grown in their gardens.

## Bulk Item Pickup

There is no need to dump large items improperly. By appointment, Republic Services provides pickup for large items at the curb. To schedule this service, call Republic Services Customer Service at **714.847.3581** to request a special bulk item pickup for the following Thursday. Single-family residents may dispose of two bulk items per year at no extra cost. Additional items will be collected for a fee, or you can rent a temporary dumpster for a larger cleanout.

# Seal Beach Christmas Parade 2024

The Seal Beach Christmas Parade on December 6 brought the community together for an evening of holiday cheer. The parade featured 84 entries and more than 2,000 participants, filling Main Street with holiday excitement. From floats and bands to bikes, wagons and even boats, the parade showcased an array of creativity.



Republic Services proudly hosted a Girl Scout Troop in the parade, giving them a memorable ride in a vintage 1951 Ford F1 garbage truck, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

# MySealBeach Brings Convenience to Residents

Seal Beach residents now have a convenient way to report service needs with the MySealBeach app. During City Hall closings, business hours or after hours, we have an easier way of reporting a work request. The app allows you to report the issue directly to our utilities and maintenance teams. Scan the QR Code below, and be part of ensuring that Seal Beach remains a great place to live. With an easy six-step process, the app makes staying connected to your city easier than ever.



### How MySealBeach Works

- Choose Report a Problem
- Choose the Category fits the Issue
- Enter address or intersection
- Choose Private or Public
- Add Notes and Photos\*
- Click Submit

\* Required

# Holiday Collection Schedule

Recycling, yard waste and trash collection service on and after these holidays will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

- New Year's Day - Wednesday, January 1, 2025
- Memorial Day - Monday, May 26, 2025
- Independence Day - Friday, July 4, 2025
- Labor Day - Monday, September 1, 2025
- Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 27, 2025
- Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25, 2025

# Stay Informed

The Seal Beach Police Department uses a range of communication methods to keep residents informed, particularly during emergencies. These include AlertOC notifications, Nixle Instant Alerts via text and social media. To learn more and to sign up for alerts, visit [Sealbeachpd.com](http://Sealbeachpd.com).

# Holiday Tree Collection



Credit: SKatzenberger | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Real holiday trees will be collected curbside for recycling starting on Thursday, December 26, through Friday, January 10, at no additional charge. Trees will be picked up on your regular collection day by a different truck.

- Remove all decorations, including ornaments, lights, garland and tinsel, as well as the stand.
- Place holiday trees at the curb no earlier than noon on the day before your regularly scheduled collection.
- If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, cut it in half before placing it at the curb.
- Flocked trees cannot be recycled. Cut up your flocked tree, and place the pieces into your trash cart.
- If trees are not suitable for collection, a notice will be left with the reason for non-collection.
- Your tree must be set out next to residential containers before 7 a.m. on collection day.

### Public Drop-Off Locations:

**At Republic Services** - 17121 Nichols Lane, Gate 7, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday, December 26 - January 10.

**At Seal Beach Public Works City Yard** - 1776 Adolfo Lopez Dr., December 26 - January 10.

After the special collection period, cut up your tree and place the pieces into your yard waste cart. Be sure that the lid on the cart will close. Live wreaths and greenery can also go into your yard waste cart. As with your tree, remove all decorations, ribbons, lights, nails and wire. You may also request a bulk item pickup for your holiday tree.

Save and reuse ribbons, bows and metallic wrapping paper for next year. These items aren't recyclable due to their size and the materials they're made of.

**City of Seal Beach**  
[SealBeachCA.gov](http://SealBeachCA.gov)  
 562.431.2527  
[AskCityHall@SealBeachCA.gov](mailto:AskCityHall@SealBeachCA.gov)

## Support Local Businesses

[SealBeachChamber.org](http://SealBeachChamber.org)

### Contact Us

17121 Nichols Lane  
 Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
 714.847.3581  
[RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA](http://RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA)

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