

Summer 2018



**REPUBLIC SERVICES**

We'll handle it from here.™

# RECYCLE TODAY

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS



## Bulky trash? Electronics? Call to schedule a pickup!

Credit: sturti | E+ | Getty Images



Has a furry friend shredded your favorite loveseat? Call Republic Services to schedule a bulky item pickup.

Republic Services will pick up bulky items, such as old furniture and appliances, as well as electronics, at the curb. However, you must call 800-299-4898 at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to request a special bulky-item pickup. Why do you need to make the call? It's simple — Republic Services sends out a different truck and crew to pick up bulky items and electronics. If you don't make the call, Customer Service doesn't know to send out the truck. You can also request a bulky-item pickup using the My Resource™ app or online at RepublicOnline.com.

Single-family residential customers may request free pickup for two bulky or electronic items per year. Additional pickups are available for a fee. If you are doing a large clean-out or remodeling your home, call Republic at 800-299-4898 to learn more about renting a larger waste container. These can be delivered to your driveway and picked up when you have filled them. Please don't place bulky items or electronics at the curb unless you have called to schedule a pickup!

If you live in a multi-family complex, check with your property manager to find out how to dispose of bulky items.

### Attention, Business Owners: Changes to Trash Collection Starting July 1st!

#### New commercial organic waste recycling requirements that could affect your business

In California, organic waste diversion isn't just a good idea anymore — it's the law. State law (Assembly Bill 1826) requires businesses and apartment complexes that generate a certain amount of organic waste, such as food waste and green waste, to participate in an organic waste recycling program. As the nation moves to a more sustainable future, this requirement will change how you dispose of organic waste.

To comply with the mandatory commercial organics recycling requirements of AB 1826, the City of Los Alamitos has adopted a new program to be provided by its waste hauler, Republic Services. Republic can develop and help your business implement the right program to fit your needs by providing waste assessments and educational materials for you and your staff. This will help ensure that you are recycling organics properly and that the process is a smooth one. To learn more, please visit [local.RepublicServices.com/site/los-angeles-ca/los-alamitos](http://local.RepublicServices.com/site/los-angeles-ca/los-alamitos).

**Wednesday, July 4th 4:00 pm JFTB, Los Alamitos**  
 Fireworks Show begins promptly at 9:00 pm  
 Food Court • Vendor Booths • Musical Entertainment  
 Enter through Lexington or Orangewood Gates  
 Free to attend • Adults must have photo ID to enter  
 Minors without an L.S. must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

**FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR**  
 LOS ALAMITOS • CYPRESS • ROSSMOOR • SEAL BEACH

**4TH OF JULY**  
 AT THE LOS ALAMITOS JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE

**Premier Community Partner**  
**REPUBLIC SERVICES**

**Shining Star Sponsors**  
 SFI, Golden State Water Company

**Rising Star Sponsors**  
 RUN/SEAL BEACH, THE SHOPS AT ROSSMOOR, CAA, SoCalGas, NEWS ENTERPRISE, Orange County Breeze, Septra Energy

Sponsor Opportunities Available! Access to thousands!  
 Bring lawn chairs and blankets (no beachers available)  
 Alcohol, dogs, fireworks, BBQ's & motor homes prohibited; service dogs are allowed on post

**Family Fun • Spend the Day • Celebrate America's Birthday**

**Serve LOS AL**  
 Making a difference in the community

**FIRST ANNUAL CITYWIDE VOLUNTEER SERVICE EVENT**  
**JUNE 29 - 30, 2018**  
 OVER 200 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
 Free Health Clinic June 30th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
 Sign up for Service Projects at [www.servealos.org](http://www.servealos.org)

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Credit: Sidekick | iStock | Getty Images Plus

**Food Finders:** During the first quarter of 2018, Republic Services customers donated 91 tons of edible food to Food Finders. That food created more than 152,255 meals! If your business would like to learn more about or begin donating edible food through this partnership, please call Republic Services at 562-347-4100. In addition to helping feed hungry people, food donation can help your business meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 1826, which mandates food waste reduction and organics recycling.



# Be a better recycler

## Tips to reduce recycling contamination at home and at work

Recycling contamination results from placing trash or unacceptable materials into recycling containers, as well as including unwanted substances such as residual food or liquid. Once a contaminated item comes into contact with other recyclables, the entire batch can potentially become contaminated.

"We all play a critical role in keeping our community recycling programs running properly and helping to reduce contamination," said Pete Keller, vice president of recycling and sustainability. "Many consumers are placing contaminated items into their containers and consequently, many of those recyclables end up in the landfill and not where they were intended. Throughout the year, we encourage everyone to help reduce contamination by incorporating four easy tips into your daily routine."

### Tip #1: Only Place These Recyclables in the Curbside Recycling Container

Keep it simple and focus on these six categories of curbside recyclables:

- Paper, including newspapers, envelopes, mail, phone books, and magazines
- Flattened cardboard, file folders, and poster board
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Plastic bags and film (bagged)
- Aluminum and tin food and beverage cans
- Glass bottles and jars

### Tip #2: Recyclables Should Be Empty, Clean, and Dry

Make sure recyclables are empty of any contents, clean of any residue, and dry before placing them into the recycling container.

### Tip #3: When In Doubt, Throw It Out

Many folks put items into the recycling container hoping that they are recyclable. Despite these good intentions, some items should not be mixed in with clean recyclables. If you are questioning whether something is recyclable or not, remember this advice, "When in doubt, throw it out."

### Tip #4: Know What Should Never Be Placed in the Curbside Recycling Container

Never place these items into a curbside recycling container:

- Food waste
- Clothing, shoes, and other textiles
- Yard waste, plants, grass clippings
- Electrical cords and garden hoses
- Disposable diapers and puppy pads
- Tissues, paper towels, paper napkins, and hardcover books
- Treated or contaminated wood, sheetrock, or drywall
- Metal such as chains, tools, and car parts
- Electronic devices and equipment, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and ballasts (For business customers, Republic offers programs to recycle electronics securely and responsibly and to safely dispose of batteries, bulbs, and ballasts.)



Credit: Max2611 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Charcoal and ashes should never be placed directly into your waste container. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety and health of the truck driver, waste and recycling facility workers, and the public.

Charcoal and ashes can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours, perhaps days, after you think the fire is out. As a safety precaution, treat all charcoal and ashes as hot. Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let ashes cool at least 48 hours.
- Wrap ashes in heavy-duty aluminum foil and place them in your waste container. (Keep container outdoors.)
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, soak them in water and then wrap them in heavy-duty foil.
- Be sure there are no other combustible materials nearby.
- **Do not place** ashes and charcoal in your recycling and/or yardwaste containers.



# Republic Services drivers honored

Republic Services collection drivers Toribio Gonzalez and Chuck Thorpe received the National Waste & Recycling Association's (Nwra) Driver of the Year awards. Each year, Nwra celebrates the industry's best drivers with the distinguished recognition based upon exemplary safety records and customer service. The drivers were honored in Las Vegas in April at the 2018 WasteExpo, North America's largest annual waste industry tradeshow.

"We unequivocally prioritize safety above all else," said Jon Vander Ark, chief operating officer. "It's the foundation of our business and the cornerstone upon which our initiatives and programs are built. It's why we have established a best-in-class driver training program that enables our drivers across the country to continually improve. It's also fundamental to our commitment to our customers and how we make a positive impact each day in the communities we serve. On behalf of Republic and our 35,000 employees, I congratulate Toribio, Chuck, and their families on this extraordinary recognition."

Toribio Gonzalez, who was named Driver of the Year in the Large Industrial Truck category, works out of Republic's Huntington Beach division. Toribio has devoted more than three decades of service to the industry, starting out as a residential driver, promoted to a commercial driver, and currently as an industrial truck driver. Over the past 30 years, Toribio has maintained a perfect safety record with zero incidents or injuries, and he has never taken an unscheduled day off.

Toribio received Republic's Dedicated to Excellence and Dedicated to Safety awards in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Averaging 310 miles and collecting 180 tons of waste each week, he is considered a leader and role model for fellow drivers and serves as a mentor for new drivers, inspiring team members to approach the day with a positive attitude and a willingness to always go above and beyond for customers.

Charles Thorpe received the Driver of the Year award in the Large Residential Truck category. Chuck is part of Republic's Northeast Area based in Telford, Pennsylvania. Averaging 3,200 residential stops or pickups a week, he has earned and maintained an impeccable safety record with over 20 years incident and injury free. Chuck drives an average of 500 miles per week, collecting 60 tons of waste.

Chuck has established a reputation as a leader and selfless team member. He takes great pride in the community he serves, but is also willing to go above and beyond for the Company. Chuck is part of Republic's SOS program, which consists of drivers from across the country who are deployed to service routes in the aftermath of natural disasters. He flew to Texas and Massachusetts last year to help local teams impacted by the storms.

For over 25 years, the Nwra Driver of the Year program has honored drivers who have upheld the field of recycling and waste collections as an honorable occupation and have conducted themselves and the vehicles they operate in a safe and responsible manner. Republic drivers have won



Republic Services CEO Don Slager (center) with award-winning drivers Chuck Thorpe (left) and Toribio Gonzalez (right)

75% of the Driver of the Year awards in the large truck category since 2009.

Republic's relentless commitment to safety has led to the formation of comprehensive, industry-leading safety programs that rely on continual training to reduce incident frequency. Last year, more than 13,500 employees earned Republic's Dedicated to Safety award and roughly 4,700 employees received the Dedicated to Excellence recognition. Over the past 10 years, Republic's safety performance, based on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) data, has been 41% better than the industry average.

The Company's "Think. Choose. Live." slogan encapsulates their number one safety message to employees: Think about what you are doing. Choose the safe answer. Live to go home to your family.

Republic's drivers begin their employment with week-long equipment training that focuses on skill set verification at one of 22 driver training safety centers nationwide. This initial training is followed by weeks of in-cab instruction and evaluation. Throughout their tenure, Republic drivers participate in monthly supervisor-led training focused on eliminating incidents.



## Holiday Collection Schedule

There will be no waste and recycling service on these holidays. If your service day is on or after the holiday, your pickup service will be delayed by one day.

- Independence Day – Wednesday, July 4, 2018
- Labor Day – Monday, September 3, 2018

### What Is Green Waste?

- ✓ Yard waste, such as vegetative cuttings, shrubs, brush, grass, tree trimmings, and prunings
- ✓ Untreated wood waste, such as branches and stumps
- ✓ Similar materials generated by homeowners from their lawns and gardens or by commercial or nonresidential activities



Tree trimmings



Grass clippings



Leaves



Branches and stumps



Prunings

Green waste goes into your green yardwaste container.



## Republic's All-in-One Recycling™ plan will make your job easier

Whether you are running a business or managing a multi-family property, recycling is part of your job. Republic Services can help make that part of your job easier by performing a free waste assessment and creating an All-in-One Recycling™ plan for you. With this plan, you can make sure that you have the right containers and the right levels of service. Republic can also provide indoor containers, posters, and additional tools. If you have questions about your business or multi-family recycling program or wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at 800-299-4898.

Under state law AB 341, recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of waste per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.



**Attention, restaurants and food service providers!**

## How to start a food waste recycling program

**Step 1:** Enroll for organics collection service. Posters and stickers will be provided during sign-up.

**Step 2:** Purchase green "slim-jim" containers for inside the kitchen, or repurpose your current containers as designated "compost containers."

**Step 3:** Stage the compost containers in food waste hot spot areas, such as prep areas and dishwashing stations. Line the compost containers with **clear plastic bags** (if needed).

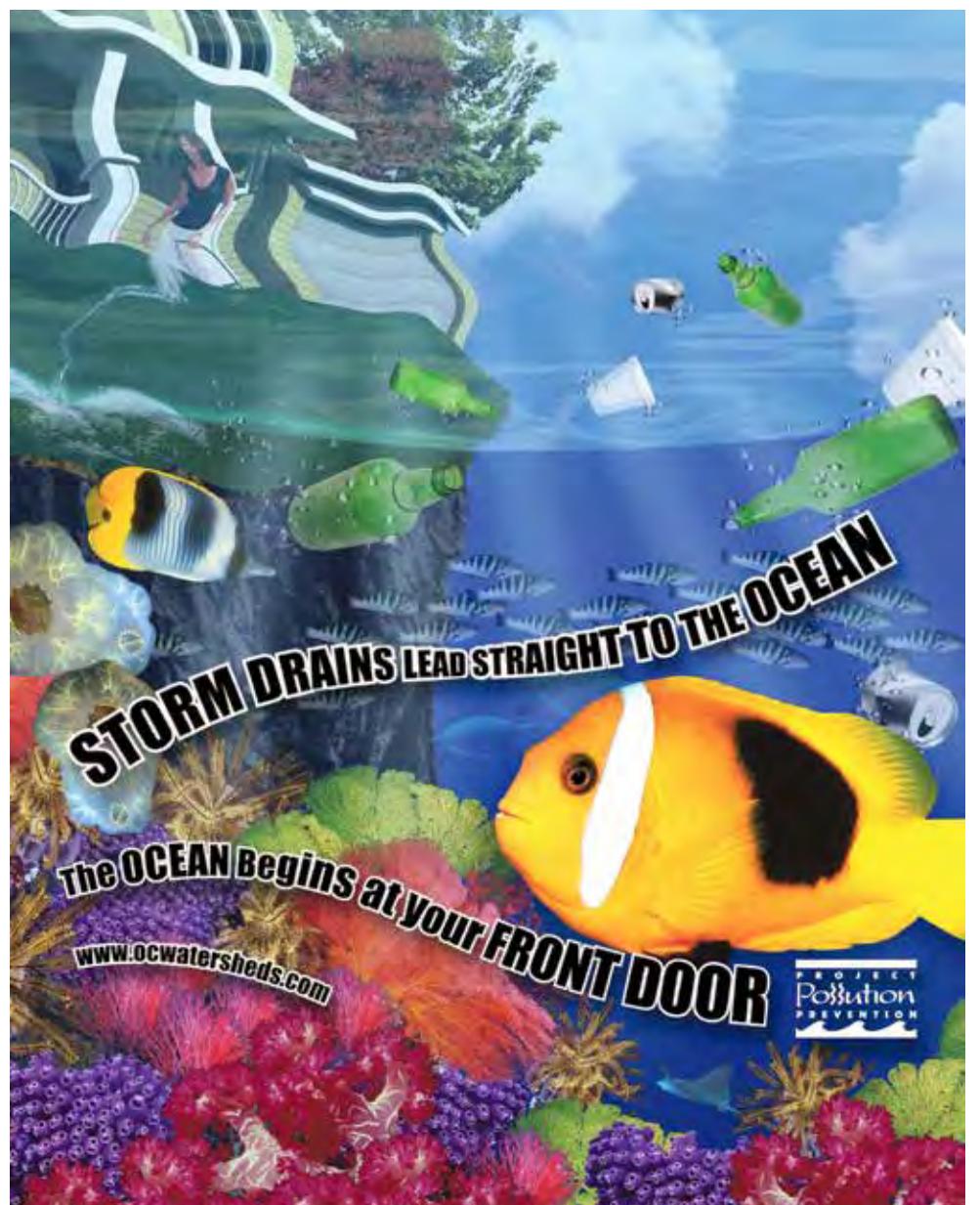
**Step 4:** Train staff to place **only food waste** in these containers. Once filled, place food waste bags into the food waste bins outdoors.

## At-your-door service for household hazardous waste

When your family has items like used motor oil and other chemicals you no longer need, we call them household hazardous waste (or HHW, for short). HHW includes many items commonly found in and around your home, such as paint, stain, paint thinner, motor oil, antifreeze, old gasoline or kerosene, pesticides and herbicides, fertilizer, household cleaning products, hobby glues, nail polish and remover, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, and mercury-containing items. Please don't ever dump these items onto the ground, pour them down the drain, or put them into any of your curbside containers! Although HHW is not accepted at the curb, Republic Services provides Los Alamitos residents with a convenient at-your-door service for proper disposal of unwanted chemicals, as well as fluorescent tubes and bulbs, batteries, medical sharps, and unneeded or expired medications. At-your-door service is by appointment only, and all collections take place on the first Wednesday of the month. You may set out an unlimited amount of HHW.

To request at-your-door service, here is what you need to do:

1. Gather the HHW in your house and garage. Keep materials in their original, labeled containers. Do not mix chemicals together. Count and make a list of the items that need to be picked up.
2. Call Republic Services at 800-299-4898 to request HHW pickup service no later than the Saturday before the first Wednesday collection date. You will be provided with instructions on how to prepare and set out your HHW.
3. On the first Wednesday of the month, place the items on your porch before 8 a.m. A certified technician will come to your home to pick up your HHW.



**We want your suggestions, questions and comments!**

**Republic Services**

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[republicservices.com/site/los-angeles-ca](http://republicservices.com/site/los-angeles-ca)

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