



Earth Friendly Holiday Cleanup

Before you know it, the holidays will be past, the presents will be tucked away, and the tree will be dried out, littering the floor with needles. It's time to clean up from the holidays, but where do you start? Here are some suggestions for an earth friendly holiday cleanup!

Holiday Trees and Greenery

We only use our holiday trees for a few weeks out of the year, and recycling or reusing them can be a great way to limit your holiday waste. Cut, real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services for two weeks beginning December 27. Be sure to take off all of the lights, ornaments, tinsel, and garland, and remove the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb. If your tree is taller than 6 feet, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection.

You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery. Please remove wire, hooks, bows, and other decorations and place the bare wreaths and greenery into your green yard waste cart.

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, please place it into the tan trash cart. Artificial trees and wreaths are not recyclable.



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Old Toys

Kids inevitably outgrow their toys. Instead of tossing their old toys into the trash, donate your family's gently used games, dolls, and other playthings to families who are less fortunate. Many thrift shops, organizations, and houses of worship, as well as Goodwill and The Salvation Army, accept gently used clothes, books, games, and toys. Check around Los Alamitos for places to donate. Just be sure to offer only items that are clean and that aren't missing any pieces or parts.

Boxes, Wrapping Paper, and More

After the presents are opened, the floor is usually littered with the wrapping paper and boxes that had carefully and thoughtfully hidden the presents inside. You can save the boxes for later use. If you aren't saving them, or if they are torn or broken, you can recycle both gift boxes and cardboard shipping boxes. Please be sure to break down the boxes as much as possible to save space in carts, bins, and trucks.

Most wrapping paper and tissue paper are recyclable. However, foil or

metallic paper is not accepted. You can save non-recyclable paper to use as packing paper or dispose of it in the tan trash cart.

Holiday cards can also be recycled. However, there are some exceptions: no photo paper, no musical greeting cards, no metallic or foil paper, and no cards with ribbons, buttons, or other items attached. Musical greeting cards have a battery, so they should be recycled with your batteries. The other cards can be put in the trash or kept to use in arts and crafts projects.

Ribbons and bows are not recyclable but are easily stored and can be reused later. If you won't be saving them, be sure to place them into the tan trash cart.

Bulky Items and Electronics

If you have replaced furniture, appliances, computers, TVs, or other items, you may have bulky items or electronics to dispose. Republic Services provides single-family



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residential customers with free pickup for two bulky or electronic items per year. Additional pickups are available for a fee.

To receive these services, please call Republic at least 24 hours in advance of your normal collection day. To schedule your pickup or for more information, call 800-299-4898. You may also use the My Resource™ app to request this service.

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

Holiday Collection Schedule

There will be no trash and recycling collection services on these holidays:

- Christmas Day – Observed Monday, December 26, 2016
- New Year's Day – Observed Monday, January 2, 2017

Your pickup that week will be delayed by one day.



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Are You Using My Resource™?

Republic Services' My Resource™ allows you to pay your bill, schedule bulky-item or electronics pickups, report a missed pickup, request container repair or replacement, and receive alerts from Republic Services. Whether you are a resident or a business, My Resource is for you. You can sign up online at RepublicOnline.com or download the My Resource app on your device. Just look for "My Resource" in the App Store or at Google Play.



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PERMIT NO. 220

Republic Services
12949 East Telegraph Road
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Tips to improve multi-family and commercial recycling

State legislation (AB 341) made recycling mandatory for certain businesses and apartment buildings beginning July 1, 2012. All businesses that produce 4 or more cubic yards of trash per week and multi-family properties of five or more units (such as apartment buildings and condo complexes) are required to recycle.

If you are a property manager, follow these guidelines to set up a great residential recycling program:

- Make sure your property has arranged for recycling services. To evaluate, expand, or add recycling service, contact Republic Services at 800-299-4898.
- Let residents know which items can be recycled. Accepted recyclables include: clean, dry paper; cardboard and chipboard; glass bottles and jars; plastic jugs, bottles, and containers; aluminum cans; metal containers and empty aerosol cans; and plastic bags and dry cleaner bags (bundled). Refer to "Recycling Instructions" on page 4 for more details.
- Provide recycling bins in offices and public areas. Use signs to show what goes into the bins. Work with your maintenance staff to have those containers monitored and emptied.
- Place recycling containers at convenient and visible locations for residents. For optimum participation, recycling containers should be placed near trash carts or dumpsters and should be clearly labeled. Republic can advise you on container placement.
- Encourage residents to create recycling "bins" inside their units. You might suggest that they use boxes, reusable tote bags, crates, or baskets. Remind residents to place only LOOSE recyclables (not bagged) into the recycling bins.
- Post reminders about recycling on bulletin boards and in emails or newsletters. Let residents know how they are doing, too!



CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Spring Carnival

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH 9-11:30 AM
 LITTLE COTTONWOOD PARK- 4000 FARQUHAR AVENUE
 EVENT WILL BE CANCELED IF THERE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER
 FREE ENTRY! HUNTS BEGIN AT 9:30 AM

(562)430-1073 WWW.CITYOFLOSALAMITOS.ORG

New trash and recycling containers powered by the sun

Republic Services recently installed Bigbelly trash and recycling stations at three Los Alamitos parks: Little Cottonwood, Laurel, and Roberts (behind the Community Center). These new containers are solar-powered, receiving all of their energy from our plentiful California sunshine, to compact trash and recyclables. They are called Bigbellies for a reason—they can hold five times as much as typical trash and recycling receptacles. Plus, the containers use wireless technology to communicate when they are full and in need of service. These features combine to help keep City parks cleaner and also reduce labor costs, fuel use, and vehicle emissions. The next time you visit one of these parks, check out the Bigbelly compactors and be sure to put all of your trash and recyclables in the right place.

Presented by the Los Alamitos Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Commission

Weekend Art in Los Alamitos

3 Day Visual & Performing Arts Exhibition
 March 17th ~ 19th, 2017
 Friday, March 17th • 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 Saturday, March 18th • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Sunday, March 19th • Noon to 5 p.m.
 Awards Reception Sunday at 3 p.m.

All ages and abilities welcome

Guest Speaker: *Jeff Carthen*
 Co-Department Head, Visual Arts, Los Alamitos High School

Guest Curator: *Michael Bell*

FREE to enter!

Registration must be received by March 6th
 Visit www.cityoflosalamitos.org/recreation for details and registration

Los Alamitos Community Center
 10911 Oak Street Los Alamitos • www.cityoflosalamitos.org • 562-430-1073

Get a FREE battery bucket

Easily collect household batteries and old cell phones with a battery bucket. Pick up a free bucket at the Los Alamitos Community Center, located at 10911 Oak Street.



You may already recycle your newspapers and office paper, but did you know there are many other ways to reduce or eliminate paper waste?

Reduce

- Go digital: Ask that bills be emailed to you, and subscribe to electronic versions of your favorite publications. Use email instead of printing memos, store recipes with online programs or apps instead of printing them, and use your smartphone for your calendar, grocery, and to-do lists.
- Eliminate junk mail: Call to have your name removed from catalog and other mailing lists. Check out Ecocycle.org/junkmail for a list of ways to stop junk mail from clogging up your mailbox.
- Invest in durables: Instead of disposable paper goods, use cloth napkins, cloth kitchen rags, ceramic mugs, and reusable plates.
- Double up: Make copies on both sides of the paper.

Reuse

- Wrap it up: Repurpose newsprint or old maps as wrapping paper, and reuse gift bags that are still in good shape.
- Remember the reverse: Use the back side of single-sided copies and envelopes as scrap paper.
- Buy recycled: Purchase recycled-content copier paper and notebooks. Don't forget to look for toilet tissue and paper towels with post-consumer recycled content, too.
- Re-read: Check out library books or buy used books instead of buying new ones.

Recycle

- Capture it all: Make sure you are recycling all of your corrugated cardboard, paperboard, office paper, magazines, and junk mail.
- Add a bin: Place recycling bins strategically in your home and workplace where you make the most paper waste. A container in the bathroom can collect tubes from

empty toilet paper rolls and old magazines. A bin next to the kitchen trash can is convenient for depositing cereal boxes and junk mail. Make sure the bin is clearly marked so

everyone uses it properly.
 • Spread the word: Tell your school, workplace, neighbors, place of worship, and local businesses about recycling opportunities in your area.

Law mandates organics recycling

Commercial organics recycling requirements affect more businesses on January 1, 2017



Organic waste comprises 40% of the material Californians landfill annually. A recent state law (AB 1826) phases-in a requirement that businesses and multi-family complexes which generate organic waste must arrange for organic waste recycling. Already affected were those that generate 8 or more cubic yards of organic waste per week. (One cubic yard is 3 feet wide by 3 feet high by 3 feet deep, or slightly larger than a residential washing machine.) As of January 1, 2017, those generating 4 or more cubic yards of organic waste per week will also be required to recycle organics. Finally, as of January 1, 2019, all businesses and apartment complexes that generate 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste per week will be required to recycle organics.

Organic waste includes food waste, food-soiled paper, landscape and pruning waste, and nonhazardous wood waste. However, apartment complexes and other multi-family complexes will only be required to have a landscape and pruning waste recycling program and will not be required to provide food waste or food-soiled paper recycling.

Your business can reduce organic waste by grasscycling (letting clippings drop back onto the lawn when grass is mowed), composting on site, reducing food purchases, and donating excess food.

For a complete list of frequently asked questions about AB 1826, please visit CalRecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics.

Republic Services is here to help you meet the newly expanded, mandatory commercial organics requirements. Call Customer Service at 800-299-4898 for more information.

REGISTER NOW

FEBRUARY 24 & 25



Glow
in the Park

FUN RUN Expanded!

KIDS, TEENS, ADULTS & FAMILY PACKAGE

HONORING OUR FALLEN
5K RUN / WALK TO REMEMBER
10K RUN / HANDCYCLE / WHEEL
JR. REVERSE TRIATHLON
REVERSE TRIATHLON
NEW VIRTUAL 5K!



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www.raceonthebase.com



Simple Tools to Reduce Food Waste

Kerry Taylor started Squawkfox.com in 2008. Covering a wide range of personal finance and investing topics, the blog offers a few effective strategies to help you save money while reducing food waste. Taylor says the average American household spends more than \$6,000 per year on food and trashes 25% of that food. So, eliminating food waste could save your family as much as \$1,500.

The first step is to identify what food you are wasting and why. Easily followed instructions, including a downloadable Food Waste Diary, can be found at Squawkfox.com/food-waste-diary. Taylor's food waste diary helps you record what you throw away after every meal, the reason why you threw it away, and how much is being tossed. She even wants you to write down where the food went—compost pile, garbage disposal, trash can, or your dog's stomach. After collecting the data, Taylor encourages you to review the results and search for patterns. Recognizing the causes, such as overpouring beverages, making meals too big, or buying too many perishables at a time, can help you avoid those situations in the future.

The blog also has excellent guidelines and tips:

- Meal planning: Squawkfox.com/meal-planner
- Organizing your fridge: Squawkfox.com/organized-fridge
- Organizing your freezer: Squawkfox.com/freezer-organization
- 20 tasty ways to love your slighted leftovers: Squawkfox.com/leftovers



Thirteen billion pounds of paper towels are used in America each year. Many times, people take multiple towels to dry their hands. If everyone gave up just one each day, we could save 571,230,000 pounds every year. So, how do we make the most of only one, or even one-half of, a paper towel? Joe Smith explains it takes two simple steps before wiping your hands: SHAKE and FOLD. After turning off the water, SHAKE the water off your hands. Next, FOLD the paper towel in half. If it is a tri-fold towel in a public restroom, open it up and fold it in half. Now wipe your hands dry! Watch Joe Smith demonstrate his one-towel technique at TED.com/talks/joe_smith_how_to_use_a_paper_towel.

Other ways to save paper towels include using an air dryer whenever available and using fabric towels at home, which cut down on waste, as well as paper consumption.

REPUBLIC SERVICES Recycling Instructions

Place these Items in your recycling cart



Recycling YES

- Newspaper
- Files & file folders
- Round dairy tubs
- Paper or frozen food boxes
- Mail, magazines, mixed paper & catalogs
- Bagged plastic bags, shrink & stretch wrap
- Milk boxes
- Plastic bottles (All colors)
- Juice boxes
- Pill bottles
- Shredded paper (In a clear bag)
- Paper bags
- Phone books
- Tin & aluminum cans
- Ferrous metals Max. size 16" x 16" x 12"
- Glass bottles & jars
- Aluminum foil & trays
- Cardboard

Do not put these Items in your recycling cart

Recycling NO



- Loose plastic bags
- Frozen food bag
- Plastic food bags & zip-locking bags
- Plastic cups & utensils
- Prescription vials
- Lids, caps & tops
- Foam take-out containers
- Plastic food boxes
- Plastic food trays
- CD's & DVD covers
- Paper plates, cups & napkins
- Clothing, textiles & shoes
- Styrofoam packing peanuts
- Alkaline batteries
- Toxic product containers
- Plant pots
- Chip/snack bags
- Light bulbs
- Ceramics
- Glassware
- Aerosol cans

NO FOOD OR SOILED MATERIALS

Recyclables should be empty, clean and un-bagged (except for plastic bags and wrap and shredded paper)



The Theme Gardens at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center are among the 12 acres of cultivated gardens and meadows on site, in addition to hiking trails.

"The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share."

Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson, 1912-2007
Businesswoman, First Lady, and Co-Founder of the National Wildflower Research Center

Photo courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Republic Services

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(800) 299-4898

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Funded by Republic Services, Inc.



Printed on recycled paper, using soy inks.