



**REPUBLIC
SERVICES**

We'll handle it from here.™

RECYCLE TODAY

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

Blue Planet™ 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 a holiday cleanup that protects our Blue Planet™!

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 from single-family homes for two weeks beginning Tuesday, December 26. 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 more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection.

If you take your tree down later and need to dispose of it January 8 or after, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your green yardwaste container with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your yardwaste container. The wreaths and greenery must also be bare, so please remove all wire, 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, please place it into the waste container. Artificial trees and wreaths are not recyclable.

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 your blue All-in-One Recycling™ container and the collection 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 your curbside waste container.

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 curbside waste container.

Electronics

Smartphones, tablets, game systems, laptops, and even TVs are popular holiday gifts. E-readers and MP3 players have had their moment, but they have been joined by new gadgets, such as wireless speakers and earbuds, smart watches, fitness trackers, and more. If you have older devices which you no longer need, don't throw them into the trash! All electronics, no matter how small, contain chemicals and metals that can harm the environment when mixed with household trash. Plus, these met-

als and other components can be used to create new electronics. Sell or donate usable and unwanted electronics. No takers? Recycle them, along with any electronics that no longer work, at the curb along with your bulky items. To request electronics recycling services, call Republic Services at 800-299-4898 at least 24 hours before your regular collection day.

You can also drop off old electronics at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. For dates and locations, visit OCLandfills.com/Hazardous.

Bulky Items

If you were really good last year, maybe someone got you some new furniture, an area rug, a mattress and box springs, a washer and dryer, or a fancy new stove for the holidays. If you received a really big gift that replaced something old, you may have some bulky items to discard. Because these items won't fit in our regular trucks and usually require two people to lift, we ask that you call to schedule a bulky-item pickup. To request a bulky-item pickup, call Republic Services at 800-299-4898 at least 24 hours before your regular collection day.

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.

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

Old Toys and Clothing

Kids inevitably outgrow their toys and clothes. Instead of tossing their old toys and clothes into the trash, donate your family's gently used games, dolls, and other playthings, as well as clothing, shoes, and household textiles, 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, toys, and more. Check in your community for places to donate. Just be sure to offer only items that are clean and that aren't missing any pieces or parts. Remember — broken toys go into your waste container, not the recycling.

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

How can you be more environmentally responsible this holiday season?

REPUBLIC SERVICES

HOLIDAY RECYCLING TIPS

Learn more at [Youtu.be/a8KR5qWMhpU](https://youtu.be/a8KR5qWMhpU) or [Facebook.com/RepublicServices](https://facebook.com/RepublicServices)



Credit: Steve Debenport | E+ | Getty Images

During the third quarter of 2017, businesses partnered with Republic Services to donate 145.18 tons of edible food to organizations serving hungry people. This was enough to create 222,482 meals!

Managing organic waste at your business

Under Assembly Bill 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the amount of organics sent to landfills. Organics include lawn and leaf waste, edible food, food scraps, and food-soiled paper. This year, organics recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of organic waste per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.

Lawn and leaf waste can be collected in yardwaste containers at your business or apartment/condominium community. If you don't have yardwaste containers, contact Republic Services at 800-299-4898.

You can reduce food waste at your business by donating edible food to feed hungry people. Republic Services has partnered with Food Finders to connect businesses that have excess food with agencies that can use it. If your business is interested in donating food through this partnership, contact Republic Services at 562-347-4100.

Start the year off right with an All-in-One Recycling™ plan

Whether you are running a business or managing a multi-family property, recycling is your responsibility. California state law (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. Republic Services can perform a free waste assessment and create an All-in-One Recycling™ plan that will work for you and your employees or tenants. 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 if you wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at 800-299-4898.



Planning at home makes recycling easy

1. Know what you can recycle. Clip and save the instructions on this page and post them in your home.
2. Look around your home. How many trash cans do you have? Where are your largest trash cans? Where is most of your trash created? The kitchen, the bathroom, the home office, or the garage? For convenience, place recycling containers where you produce the most waste and recyclables.
3. Make room near your trash cans for recycling "bins." These might be tote bags, baskets, plastic totes, or boxes. You might even repurpose an unneeded trash can. You don't need to buy special bins. Be sure that everyone in your home knows which bins are for recycling.
4. When your recycling bins are full, empty the loose recyclables into the All-in-One Recycling™ container, whether that is a curbside container or a recycle container at your multi-family complex.



Credit: Minute | iStock | Getty Images Plus

An empty basket makes a perfect recycling bin for the bathroom or family room.

What can be recycled?

Recyclable

These items can be recycled in one container with **All-in-One Recycling™**



Paper

- Paper (*staples okay*)
- Newspaper
- Envelopes
- Junk mail
- Phone books
- Brochures
- Magazines & catalogs
- Paper Bags
- Shredded Paper (*in a paper bag*)



Cardboard

- Ream wrappers
- File folders
- Poster board
- Paper or frozen food boxes
- Cardboard boxes
- Milk & juice cartons



Plastic

- Bottles & jugs
- Plastic bags, shrink & stretch wrap (*bagged*)
- CD & DVD Covers
- Plastic Plant Pots (*empty*)
- Round Dairy Tubs (*empty*)



Metal

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Food cans
- Scrap metal
- Aerosol cans (*empty*)
- Aluminum foil & trays (*clean*)



Glass

- Bottles & jars (*empty*)

Special handling

These items should never be mixed with regular recycling and require special handling. Learn more at **RepublicServices.com**

- Incandescent light bulbs
- Fluorescent tubes
- Computers & electronics
- Needles or syringes
- Hazardous waste
- Paint
- Toxic material containers
- Batteries

Non-Recyclable

- Food waste
- Mirrors or ceramics
- Styrofoam
- Tissue, paper towels or napkins

For more information on recyclables, visit **RepublicServices.com**



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Heavy Rains on Collection Days

During the winter, heavy rains may flood street gutters and potentially tip over or wash away collection containers. On collection days when rain is expected, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure street gutters and alleys are clear of trash and loose items that could potentially interfere with storm drainage.
- Place collection containers 2 feet away from the curb to keep the gutter flow line clear.
- Keep lids closed on your curbside containers.
- Whenever possible, set out only full containers, as heavier containers are less likely to tip over or float away with the running water.
- Promptly return your containers to your property after they have been emptied to prevent them from floating away.
- Avoid placing loose, bulky items out for collection on rainy days.

Credit: Kkwanchai | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Empty. Clean. Dry.

Be sure your recyclables are dry before you toss them in the blue container.



Holiday Schedule

Credit: ThomasVogel | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Your pickup for waste and recycling will be delayed by one day during the week of New Year's Day.

Wondering what My Resource™ can do for you?

My Resource™ is an app that can help you communicate with Republic Services at any time of day from any smartphone or connected device. Using the app, you can:

- Pay your bill.
- Schedule special pickups, such as a bulky-item or electronics recycling pickup.
- Request repair or replacement of residential containers.
- Request repair or graffiti removal on business containers.
- Report a missed pickup.
- Receive alerts from Republic Services.



To learn more, check out the short video about My Resource at RepublicServices.com/site/los-angeles-ca.

Download the My Resource app from the App Store or Google Play or sign up at RepublicOnline.com.

Los Alamitos
Recreation & Community Services
Creating Quality of Life

COED YOUTH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

DIVISIONS:

PEE WEE	DREAM TEAM		
K-1st GRADE	ALL STAR 2nd-3rd GRADE	4th-5th GRADE	LEGEND 6th-8th GRADE

Fee- \$119 for 10 weeks (scholarships available)
Begins the week of January 8th
REGISTER ONLINE: cityoflosalamitos.org/recreation
QUESTIONS? 562.430.1073

SPONSORED BY:

Keep your reusable bags clean and your family healthy

Reusable shopping bags are handy and durable, but they aren't self-cleaning. Here are some tips to keep your reusable shopping bags clean and your family healthy this winter:

- Wash your hands after you get home from the store and before unloading grocery bags.
- Launder reusable cotton and synthetic fabric grocery bags frequently. If the bag has cleaning instructions, follow them. If not, turn the bags inside out before tossing them into the washing machine. Detergent and a cold water wash will do the trick. You can dry fabric bags on low heat or line dry them.
- Wipe out the inside of plastic reusable or insulated bags with a damp, soapy cloth and then wipe away any residue with a clean, damp cloth. Turn the bags inside out and allow them to air-dry.
- Label bags for meat, produce, dairy, packaged food, and cleaning supplies. And, place raw meat into a disposable plastic bag before putting it into a reusable bag.
- Never use bags that you use at the grocery store as gym bags, diaper bags, or laundry bags.
- Put clean bags near the door so you'll remember to grab them on your next trip to the store.

REGISTER NOW!

FREE GLOW RUN/5K/10K OR 50% OFF TRI'S
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Southland CREDIT UNION
LOS ALAMITOS 2018 RACE ON THE BASE
5K RUN/WALK • 10K RUN/HANDCYCLE/WHEEL • REVERSE TRIATHLONS
Saturday, February 24

Glow in the Park Whimsical Run
Friday Night, February 23
Run with inspiration & dress in your favorite bright & colorful whimsical character for the Costume Contest.

www.raceonthebase.com

Los Alamitos Winter Camp
Dec. 26 - Jan. 5

DAILY: 9AM-4PM (\$25)
EXTENDED: 7AM-6PM (\$40)

*AGES 5-12 CLOSED ON NEW YEARS, JANUARY 1
GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, MOVIES AND MORE!
REGISTER FOR ONE OR MORE DAYS. BRING A SACK LUNCH, SNACKS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED. SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTER EARLY!

Los Alamitos WWW.CITYOFLOSALAMITOS.ORG/RECREATION
Recreation & Community Services
Creating Quality of Life
(562) 430-1073

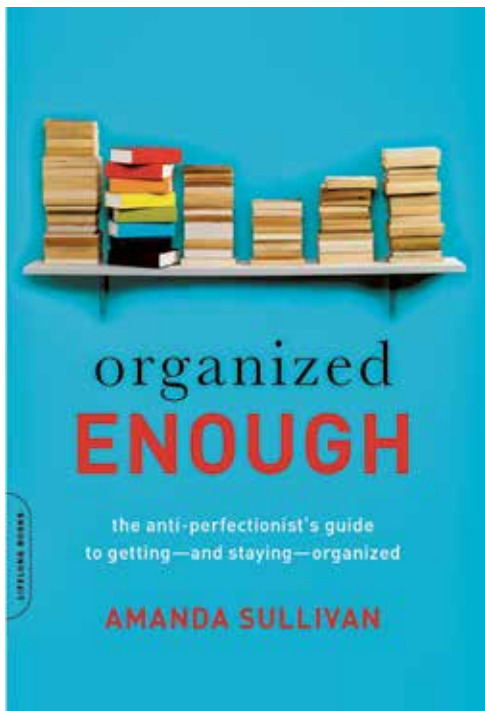
Life is disorganized, but your home doesn't have to be

Organization can appear daunting, especially when our lives are lacking it. Its absence takes the form of an overflowing closet or that pile of paper perpetually lying on the desk. Amanda Sullivan recognizes the struggle of keeping a clean living area and explores the numerous ways organization can be achieved. Structured strategies and tips for making your space more livable are presented in her book, *Organized Enough: The Anti-Perfectionist's Guide to Getting — and Staying — Organized* (Da Capo Press).

In a society driven by consumption, many are hesitant to get rid of things. However, rather than solely accumulating possessions, a home should maintain a constant flow of material. Items that go unused or unseen are taking up valuable space. Sullivan progresses through each space of the home, providing clutter-reducing methods along the way. From the kitchen cabinets to the bedroom, she depicts how the concept of FLOW can be used to improve your life. The acronym FLOW stands for, "Forgive yourself. Let stuff go. Organize what's left. Weed constantly." By adhering to these principles, a person can begin to overcome disorganization within their space. At first, getting organized may involve purging, which is due to all the time that was previously spent bringing items in without getting rid of any. For instance, it may not be necessary to hold onto every T-shirt since high school in order to maintain a working wardrobe.

Along with organizing the things in your life, Sullivan highlights the benefits of developing habits for routine household activities. Rather than allowing the pantry to run entirely out of food, she suggests building grocery shopping into your weekly routine. This will give structure to the kitchen, allowing it to maintain a healthy input and output. Habits can be manifested in other aspects of life to help maintain organization within the home, such as having a designated laundry day. Adherence to the schedule allows you to own fewer clothes while always having something clean to wear.

Sullivan discusses the ways in which, once begun, organization can remain when life gets in the way. By creating good systems on the front end, such as having an order in which the mail is opened and bills are paid, you do not have to spend time thinking about what needs to be done. In the absence of this decision-making process, the amount of time spent completing household tasks is reduced. Structuring time each evening where 10 minutes is devoted to tidying up any clutter or piles that have been strewn across the living room can be a valuable habit in maintaining an organized environment. Being mindful of how you handle organization can benefit you in setting up schedules that work in your life. The insight provided by Sullivan in *Organized Enough* can help turn a messy space into a home. By incorporating the concept of FLOW and building habits and systems into your life, the goal of becoming and staying organized is achievable.



Credit: yulkapopkova | E+ | Getty Images



Practical tips to reduce food waste at home: 40% of the food grown in the U.S. is wasted, 90% of us toss it too soon, and 20% of what we buy is not eaten. The wasted portion costs a family of four \$1,500 per year. What can you do about it? Go to SavetheFood.com for tips on cooking and storing food to reduce food waste.

OVERKILL
Excess pesticides from yard care activities eventually get washed into storm drains and flow directly into our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.

Remember the ocean begins at your front door.
1.877.89.SPILL
www.ocwatersheds.com

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Republic Services
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republicservices.com/site/los-angeles-ca

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