



REPUBLIC
SERVICES

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RECYCLE TODAY

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

Be a better recycler

Recycling contamination results when the wrong items or dirty recyclables go into recycling bins. Once a contaminated item comes into contact with other recyclables, the entire load becomes contaminated.

"We all play a critical role in keeping our community recycling programs running properly and helping to reduce contamination," said Pete Keller, Republic Services 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."

Increased contamination has come at a time when the value of recyclables has fallen because of strict new standards from end users, especially those in Asia. In the past, recycling collection and processing have been funded by the value of commodities, so

they are not currently factored into a resident's monthly rate. As the industry adjusts to new market conditions, higher processing costs, and lowered commodity values, the funds needed to support collection and processing of recyclables may need to come from an alternate source, such as adjustments to residential rates.

To face today's challenging recycling markets, we all need to be recycling better, keeping recyclables clean and contaminant-free. Follow these simple guidelines to create market-ready recyclables:

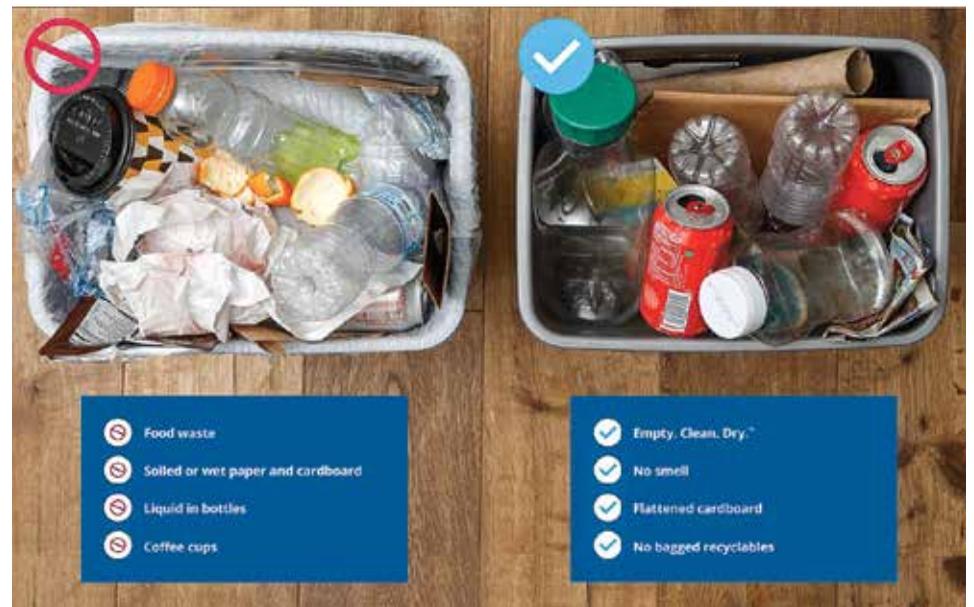
Know What to Throw

Keep it simple and focus on these five categories of recyclables:

- Paper and cardboard
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Metal food and beverage cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bags and film (bagged)

EMPTY. CLEAN. DRY.™

Make sure recyclables are empty of any contents, clean of any residue, and dry



- ❌ Food waste
- ❌ Soiled or wet paper and cardboard
- ❌ Liquid in bottles
- ❌ Coffee cups

- ✅ Empty, Clean, Dry.™
- ✅ No smell
- ✅ Flattened cardboard
- ✅ No bagged recyclables

before placing them into the recycling container.

Keep It Loose

Never bag paper, cardboard, containers, bottles, cans, and jars. The only items that should be bagged are plastic bags and film. Bags and film can be placed into one shopping bag and tied shut, creating a "bag ball."

When In Doubt, Throw It Out

Some items never belong in recycling bins — like food waste and disposable diapers. Other items might be confusing. If you aren't sure, it is better to place an item into your waste container. Don't risk contaminating your recyclables.

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Holiday Collection Schedule

During the weeks of Christmas and New Year's Day, waste and recycling collection on and after the holidays will be delayed by one day. Monday collections will not be affected.

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Start the year off right at your business or multi-family property

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. 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.

Holiday cleanup

There's no time like the holidays to kick-start recycling and reuse efforts, just in time for the new year! Start 2019 off right by making sure all of your holiday scraps are properly disposed, reused, or recycled. Not only will you have a cleaner home, but we'll also have a cleaner environment.

Holiday Trees

With our holiday tree recycling program, "undecking" the halls has never been easier. Once you remove and put away your ornaments, lights, and garland, as well as the stand, you can recycle your real holiday tree at the curb at no extra charge. These trees will be chipped and composted, so make sure your tree is totally bare. **Clean, bare trees will be accepted at the curb for two weeks beginning December 26. Place your tree at the curb for pickup on your regular collection day. Trees taller than 6 feet should be cut in half.**

After this collection period, you can cut your tree into pieces and place the pieces into your yard-waste container. Cut the pieces small enough that the lid will close on your bin.

Wrapping Paper and Boxes

If you're careful when opening presents, you can save wrapping paper, boxes, gift bags, bows, or tissue paper for next year.

Boxes beyond reuse can be broken down and recycled. Be sure to remove tissue, plastic bags, and other packing material. On boxes that held toys like dolls or action figures, remove and discard the plastic window and then recycle the paperboard box.

Wrapping paper is recyclable, as long as it is not metallic or metal-flecked. Brown paper gift bags are also recyclable, but remove and discard the handles.

Other gift bags, ribbons, and bows are not recyclable. If you won't be saving them for future use, dispose of them in the trash.

Holiday Cards

Greeting cards, holiday letters, and envelopes 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 non-recyclable cards can be put in the trash or kept for use in arts and crafts projects.

Batteries

The new toys here to stay might need batteries. Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries for these gifts. Rechargeable batteries can be reused multiple times with the help of a charging dock.

However, even rechargeables eventually die. When this happens, be sure to recycle them with other batteries. Harmful chemicals and metals in batteries don't belong in



Credit: Polka Dot Images | Getty Images Plus

landfills and can be recycled to make new batteries. You can recycle batteries through Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste program. For locations and other details, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous.

Old Toys and Unwanted Gifts

Some of the gifts wrapped in those bags and bows might have replaced old toys or been unwanted themselves. Some stores will accept new toys without a receipt in exchange for store credit. You can always donate new or gently used toys, as well as clothes and other goods that have been replaced, to a local charity or to Goodwill and The Salvation Army.

Bulky Items and Electronics

If a new appliance, chair, rug, computer, or electronic gadget replaced something older, consider giving away or selling the items you no longer need. If you can't give away or sell them, dispose of them at the curb AFTER you call to schedule a bulky-item pickup. Large appliances, old furniture, rugs, and all types of electronics are accepted, but you must schedule a pickup by calling 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.

What next?

Now that you have a freshly cleaned home, set waste-reducing resolutions for 2019. For ideas, read the article "New Year's Reduce-olutions" on the back page.

Click instead of calling with My Resource™

You don't have to get on the phone to contact Customer Service. Instead, you can use the My Resource™ app. With My Resource, you can schedule a bulky item or electronics pickup or report a missed pickup. Individuals can request repair or replacement of a damaged residential container, while businesses can request repair or graffiti removal on containers. Plus, you can pay your bill. Download the My Resource app to your device from the App Store or Google Play or sign up online at RepublicOnline.com.



Be "sharps" smart

If you use sharps, such as needles, syringes, or lancets, to care for a medical condition at home, you need to dispose of them properly. This protects your family members, as well as waste haulers and handlers. Please follow these guidelines to safely dispose of sharps:

1. NEVER place any kind of sharps in a curbside waste or recycling container.
2. Purchase a sharps container from a local pharmacy. Or, write "SHARPS" with a permanent marker on an empty detergent jug, or other thick-walled plastic jug, to create a sharps container.
3. Place your used sharps into the container.
4. When the sharps container is full, seal it closed and dispose of it through Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste program. For locations and other details, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous.

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We believe in the preservation of our Blue Planet™ for a cleaner, safer, and healthier world where people thrive — not just for today, but for generations to come.

That's why We Work for Earth. We are 35,000 guardians of the earth, and we have a responsibility to protect our environment from the materials we're entrusted to handle every day by driving increased recycling, generating renewable energy, and helping our customers to be more resourceful.

Our employees are turning waste into possibility. Meet some of the men and women dedicated to working for the earth at WeWorkforEarth.com.

Republic Services promotes vehicle safety



In 2016, Republic Services joined the governing board of a private sector coalition called Together for Safer Roads (TSR). Members concentrate on results-driven programs to address road safety challenges. They partner with each other, the public sector, and academia to promote road safety efforts in order to save lives. Other members include retailers, beverage and auto manufacturers, as well as providers of insurance, technology, parcel delivery, and ride-sharing services.

According to the National Safety Council, there were 40,100 motor vehicle deaths in the U.S. during 2017, the second consecutive year that figure exceeded 40,000. In addition, motor vehicle crashes injured 4.57 million people seriously enough to require medical attention in 2017, and costs to society totaled \$413.8 billion.

TSR was formed to be unique from industry-specific nonprofits and trade associations. Every industry faces challenges related to vehicle safety. Republic Services vehicles are involved in a number of crashes each year that are "not preventable" by the company or its employees. Distracted driving can

cause vehicles to cross into oncoming traffic or rear-end the vehicle in front of them. Collaboration with other industries that operate large fleets of vehicles allows for quick dissemination of best practices and improves the safety of all private fleet drivers on the road. With the inclusion of technology companies, TSR is also able to reach individual drivers of vehicles.

In addition to messaging about safety, TSR has a program where start-up technology companies partner with members to test new concepts. Through that program, Republic Services is working on the ability to alert drivers, through their navigation app, to the presence of a collection vehicle on the road ahead. This technology is being piloted on a small number of Republic trucks in Chicago. It may be able to divert drivers to alternate routes if a collection vehicle is working on a tight city street, or warn them if a collection vehicle is around a curve or obscured by sunlight in rural areas. The company is hopeful that testing of this platform could make it safer for people working around trash trucks.

Organics recycling mandate expands to cover more businesses

Under Assembly Bill 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the amount of organics sent to landfills. Organics include both food scraps and yard debris. As of January 1, 2019, organics recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate **4 or more cubic yards of solid waste (trash) per week** and multi-family properties with five or more units. At this time,

multi-family properties are required to recycle yard debris but do not have to provide food waste recycling.

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



Reduce food waste and feed the hungry

You can reduce food waste at your business by donating edible food to feed hungry people. Republic Services has partnered with several local food banks to connect businesses that have excess food with agencies that can use it. Donating food can also help your business meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 1826. If your business is interested in donating food through these partnerships, contact Republic Services at 562-347-4100.

Forbes recognizes Republic Services for innovation

Republic Services has been recognized as one of the most innovative companies in the world by Forbes Magazine. Ranked 89th, Republic is one of only two recycling and solid waste management companies on the 2018 list. Forbes selects its annual "100 World's Most Innovative Companies" list by identifying companies that investors believe to be forward-thinking.

"Our customers put a priority on reliability, simple solutions, and environmental responsibility," said Don Slager, president and chief executive officer. "Continued innovation is central to our ability to meet or exceed those expectations. I am proud of our team of 35,000 strong; they are the reason why we are leading in innovation and on our way to becoming America's preferred provider."

This recognition from Forbes underscores Republic's demonstrated ability to advance its business through creative disruption and innovation. Examples can be found throughout Republic's strategy and operations, including:

- **Growth Through Differentiation** – By combining the best people with the best products accessible through a variety of digital channels, Republic is delivering excellence throughout the entire customer experience.
- **Advanced Technologies** – Republic's Southern Nevada recycling center is the largest and smartest residential recycling center in North America. Using advanced sorting technologies, the facility can process one truckload of recyclables in under 7 minutes.
- **A Cleaner Fleet** – Republic leverages technology to reduce emissions and optimize collections. In California, Republic uses renewable natural gas from its landfills to power 93% of its collections fleet.
- **Landfill Solutions** – Republic operates 68 renewable energy projects at landfills and brownfields nationwide, converting landfill gas and solar power into renewable energy resources for the communities they serve.

Recycling. Simple as 1-2-3.

1. Know what to throw

Cardboard, paper, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs

2. Empty. Clean. Dry.™

Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid

3. Keep it loose

Never put recyclables in containers or bags

Learn more at RepublicServices.com

Recycling *Simplified*



We'll handle it from here.®

New Year's Reduce-olutions



Credit: kalif | iStock | Getty Images Plus

As the year comes to a close, people start pondering New Year's Resolutions. For many, the priority is to spend less money. The easiest way to do this is to reduce what we are consuming. This year, make a Reduce-olution! Here are some tips to help you reduce your consumption and save money at the same time:

- **Buy Less:** This may seem obvious, but maybe you can put a little more thought into it. We have kitchens full of single-use gadgets and appliances. Before buying something, ask yourself two questions: "Do I really need this?" and "Do I already have something that would serve the same purpose?"
- **Don't Buy — Borrow:** Before you buy something that you won't use often, look for someplace where you can borrow it. Get books, movies, and magazines from friends and family or the library. Share yard tools with a neighbor. Need a dress for a special occasion? Ask to look through a friend's closet, or consider renting it, as men have rented tuxes for decades.
- **Use Your Bags, Bottles, and Mugs:** We all do it — we keep reusable bags in our cars and then walk into the store without them. Put them somewhere you won't forget them, such as next to the car seat so you see them when you get your child out or next to you in the front seat. Or put your purse or wallet inside the bags so they are together. Don't just use them at the grocery store; take them along for any shopping you do. Always carry a water bottle or coffee mug with

you; most places will fill your bottle or mug instead of giving you a disposable cup. If you often find yourself throwing away straws or disposable cutlery, consider keeping reusable versions of these items with you to avoid the waste.

- **Give Up Disposables:** Skip the single-use plastic straws. As of January 1st, plastic straws will only be available by request anyway, so sip without the straw. Avoid buying bottled water. Use cloth napkins, towels, and rags in your home. Eat meals on dishes, not paper, plastic, or Styrofoam plates and bowls. Keep reusable containers in your car for when you have leftovers at restaurants. Choose containers with lids that stay firmly closed and you've already improved upon the traditional doggie bags.
- **Keep Electronics in Tip-Top Shape:** Keep electronics operating as long as possible and you'll save money and conserve resources. Regularly upload pictures and videos to the cloud or a home hard drive and delete them from your mobile device to free up storage space. Don't let the battery go dead before charging it to full. Instead, charge the battery a little at a time, as often as possible. Leave your laptop plugged in while you use it and unplugged when it's turned off. Don't expose your device to either extremely high or low temperatures. Use both a case and a screen protector for cell phones, e-readers, and tablets. Frequently clear the cache and remove temporary files to keep your device running smoothly.

Slow Down to Get Around

You've seen the "Give 'em a brake" signs encouraging you to slow down in road construction zones. You know what the flashing lights on a school bus mean. You yield and move over to let emergency vehicles pass. But what happens when you see a trash or recycling truck at the side of the road?

For too many people, the answer is to race the engine and speed around, without paying attention to where workers are located or what they might be doing. As a result, there are many near misses and several serious accidents each year, too many of which involve fatalities.

Last year, there were 132 recorded fatalities involving workers or vehicles in the solid waste industry. Each person was someone's child, spouse, parent,

sibling, or friend. Of those who died, 38 were workers on the job and 94 were members of the public. Of those 94 non-worker fatalities, 57 were in other vehicles, 23 were pedestrians, eight were bicyclists, four were motorcyclists, and two occurred at disposal facilities.

When you see a trash or recycling truck stopped or slowed, follow the steps below to avoid accidents — the life you save may be your own.

- **Slow down** when approaching a garbage or recycling truck making its rounds. Stop, if necessary, to allow workers to do their jobs.
- **Look for workers** before attempting to pass the truck.
- **Check for traffic** approaching from the opposite direction before attempting to pass the truck.
- **Avoid distractions** like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS while driving near a garbage truck.

Protect those who must work in the streets to do their jobs and yourself — slow down to get around!



Go for the basket! Create memorable moments at home by teaching your kids the do's and don'ts of recycling.

Taking It to the Basket for the Recycling Win

Recycling at home is simple and doesn't take a lot of extra space. Follow these guidelines to create a simple, in-home recycling system:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Know what goes into the recycling bin (and what doesn't)! Not sure? Visit RepublicServices.com or check the My Resource™ app.
4. When your recycling bins are full, empty the loose recyclables into the blue recycling container, whether that is a curbside cart or a recycling bin at your multi-family complex.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Republic Services

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RepublicServices.com/site/los-angeles-ca

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