



City of Seal Beach Recycling & Waste Newsletter



SUMMER 2020

Recycling — More Important Than Ever



Recyclables are more important to our supply chains than ever. As the economy slowed during the past months, many manufacturers struggled to get an adequate supply of clean recyclables to create their products. Why? Because they rely on clean recyclables, like corrugated cardboard and paper, much of which comes from businesses which were closed or had sent employees home

to work. For instance, 58% of the fiber in toilet tissue comes from clean, recycled paper, such as newspapers, household papers and paperboard boxes. When you are recycling paper at home or at work, you are an important part of the toilet paper supply chain. Manufacturers are counting on you!

Follow these tips to recycle properly:

DO

- Stick to the basics: plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, metal food and drink cans, and clean paper and boxes.
- **Empty. Clean. Dry.**™ Empty all food and beverage containers completely. If needed, wipe or rinse them out. Allow them to dry before you toss them into your container.
- Put caps and lids back on plastic bottles and jugs after they dry.
- Break down and flatten boxes.
- Keep recycling loose.

DON'T

- Don't put items smaller than a credit card (coffee pods, loose bottle caps, shredded paper) into the recycling container.
- Don't bag your recycling.
- Don't put smelly items, like dirty diapers, into recycling containers. (Dirty diapers aren't recyclable! Please put them in the waste container.)
- Don't put "tangles" into recycling containers. Tangles include garden hoses, loose plastic bags, mini-blinds, power cords and holiday lights.

Learn more at
RecyclingSimplified.com.

"Committed to Serve" Initiative Helps Employees, Customers and Communities

In April, Republic Services® launched the "Committed to Serve" initiative to help its employees, customers and communities in Southern California and across the United States. This effort was designed to support frontline employees and their families, as well as small business customers that are the economic engines of our local communities, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Over the past months, the Committed to Serve initiative provided a weekly meal for all frontline employees, weekly dinner for frontline employees and their families, and every-other-week \$100 gift cards to all frontline employees (or \$400 per employee in total). All meals were purchased from local, small businesses to help support our customers and the communities we serve. Additionally, Republic Services made a donation to the Republic Services Charitable Foundation to fund our long-term nonprofit partners that operate locally and serve local communities and small businesses.

"This initiative is targeted economic stimulus at the local level, designed to benefit our small business customers, as well as our employees, our company and our country," said Donald W. Slager, chief executive officer.

Jon Vander Ark, president, added, "We are excited to show our appreciation for our frontline team members while also helping to support our small business customers when they need it most."

Republic Services has also implemented enhanced measures to protect the well-being of employees and communities, working closely with public health experts and other advisors to ensure the safe handling of recycling and waste.

For more information, visit RepublicServices.com/CommittedToServe or join in the social conversation by using #CommittedToServe.



As part of the "Committed to Serve" initiative, Republic Services employees in the Huntington Beach Division, which serves Seal Beach, enjoyed weekly meals from local restaurants, such as Taco Surf and Crema Cafe in Seal Beach.



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Holiday Collection Schedule

During the week of Labor Day in early September, recycling and waste collection services will be delayed by one day. All collections will be completed by Saturday of the holiday week. (Since July 4th is a Saturday, it will not affect the collection schedule.)

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Is Your Business or Multi-Family Property in Compliance?

Recyclables

Assembly Bill 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 items that are unique to their operations.



Organics

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. Organics recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste (recyclables, waste and organics) 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.

For Assistance

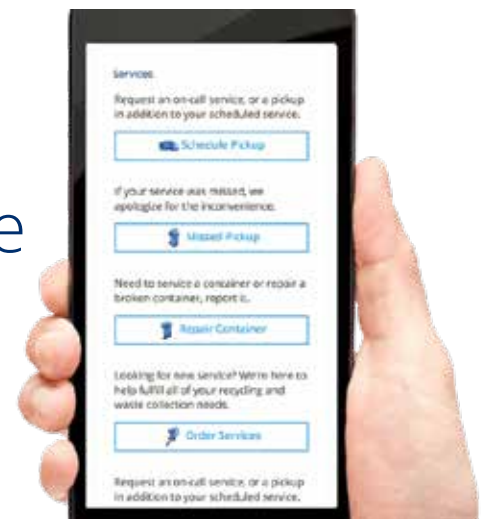
If you have questions about your business or multi-family recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at 800.299.4898.



Residents showed their appreciation for our employees during the COVID-19 crisis.

Simple Account Management — Anytime, Anywhere

Republic Services gives you one simple tool to manage your recycling, waste and account needs. You can schedule a special pickup, report a missed pickup, request container repair and more. Visit RepublicServices.com/Account to sign up or download the app.



Keep the Green Waste Clean

As you clean up your yard this summer, don't forget to recycle your lawn clippings and garden debris. Instead of sending yard waste to the landfill, make sure to properly dispose it in your green waste container so it can be turned into compost.

Your green curbside containers are meant for just organic material from your yard that can become compost. This includes leaves, grass clippings, branches, tree trimmings, brush, flowers, twigs, hedges, untreated and unpainted lumber and scrap wood,

or anything that comes from your yard or garden that's less than 4 feet long. You probably know to keep out litter, but make sure dirt, palm fronds, yucca leaves, Birds of Paradise, rocks, foam, pet waste, paper, cardboard and plastic bags also stay out of your green container.

Just a little litter or debris in your green container can contaminate an entire batch of compost. Let's do our part to "keep the green clean" and ensure our green containers remain contaminant-free!



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Three Cheers for Our Employees!

This spring, Republic Services' recycling and waste workers truly went above and beyond to keep Seal Beach safe and clean. From drivers, material sorters, maintenance workers, facility staff, customer support representatives, cleaning staff and more, these men and women went out into the community every day to ensure your essential services were provided on schedule.

Safety is our number one priority, and we worked hard to take care of our customers and employees while minimizing service disruptions during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. By following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and adhering to Occupational

Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines, Republic Services workers safely handled recycling and waste, while increasing sanitation procedures inside trucks and facilities. Other employees worked from home to provide frontline staff with needed support.

Team members worked long hours to serve our communities during the COVID-19 crisis, answering more phone calls, adjusting routes to handle increased residential waste volumes and assisting our small business customers. These essential workers showed up to keep our communities clean and sustainable, and we want to give them a special thank you for their hard work!

Large Items? Electronics? Call to Schedule a Pickup

Call Republic Services at 800.299.4898 or use the Republic Services app at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to schedule a bulk-item pickup. Single-family residential customers may request free pickup for two bulk or electronic items per year. Additional pickups are available for a fee.

If you are doing a large cleanout or remodeling your home, call Republic Services at 800.299.4898 or use the app to learn more about renting a large, roll-off container. These containers, which are available in multiple sizes, can be delivered to your driveway and picked up when full.

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



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Controlling Odors



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Protecting Yourself and Your Neighbors



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Unfortunately, as more people are using disposable masks, gloves and disinfecting wipes to protect themselves and their families, those items are being littered in parking lots and parks. This litter has negative impacts on the environment, especially wildlife and waterways. However, it also creates a risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) and other illnesses to other people who come across it or pick it up to properly dispose of it. Using personal protective equipment is a good idea, but please dispose of it properly. Place all of these items into your waste container:

- Disposable disinfecting wipes
- Disposable plastic gloves
- Disposable masks and face coverings
- Tissues and paper towels
- Baby and toilet wipes (Do NOT flush these or other wipes!)

Keep a bag (such as a small trash bag or old grocery bag) in your car and dispose of any wipes, gloves or

masks that you used on the trip inside that bag and tie it shut. When you get home, drop your bagged disposable protective gear into your waste container. If you use washable gloves and masks, place them in the laundry when you return home.

Please bag all waste (household garbage, food waste, diapers, soiled tissues and wipes, disposable gloves and masks, etc.) before placing it into your waste container. The lid should be closed on your curbside waste container and no waste should be outside of the container (on the top of the lid or on the ground). Bagging your waste and keeping the lid on the container closed help reduce litter and protect workers.

If you see littered gloves or masks, do not pick them up with your bare hands. Wear gloves to pick up litter and then discard your disposable gloves in the waste container or wash reusable gloves. Always wash your hands after picking up any litter, even if you were wearing gloves.

Due to the heat of the summer months, it can be challenging to keep curbside containers from giving off unpleasant odors. The things we throw away can be downright stinky, especially when met with the sun's rays and high seasonal temperatures. Luckily, there are some steps that you can take to reduce and control trash odors:

1. When it's not collection day, store your containers in a cool, shaded area to avoid the sun's heat. If possible, place your containers at the curb early on collection day and take them in as soon as collection is complete so that they don't sit in the hot sun for long periods of time.
2. Bag all trash and tie bags shut before placing them into your curbside waste container. This reduces litter during collection and also helps keep your container clean inside.
3. Place yard waste loose into your green waste container or use kraft paper bags. Kraft paper yard waste bags, which are compostable, are available from home improvement, hardware, grocery and other retail stores. To keep damp waste from sticking to the bottom of your green waste container, try placing dry items, such as a few dry leaves or a few sheets of newspaper, underneath moist items, like grass clippings and fresh trimmings.
4. If you recycle properly, the only containers that might get smelly are the trash and green waste containers. Recyclables should be empty, clean, dry and loose, so they should never leave behind odors. Please do not bag your recyclables or place any plastic bags into your curbside recycling containers.
5. To keep your trash and green

waste containers smelling fresh, sprinkle about a quarter of a cup of baking soda into the bottom of each container (or even into individual trash bags) to absorb odors.

6. Wash your containers by following these steps:

- Place your containers over an absorbent surface, such as your yard, so that any rinse water will soak into the ground instead of running off.
- If you just want to give the containers a quick clean, squirt a bit of dish soap inside. For more serious odors, pour two to three cups of white vinegar into each container.
- Attach an automatic shut-off spray nozzle to your hose. For best results, you want to use a small amount of water at high pressure. Spray the inside walls and then the bottom of the container.
- Let the soapy water or vinegar/water solution soak in the bottom of containers for an hour or so.
- Tip each container over and dump out the solution onto the ground. Spray the insides of the containers thoroughly to rinse them one more time and then turn them upside-down to drain for a few minutes.
- Turn the containers right-side up. Leave them in the sun with the lid open to dry. The sun will not only finish drying out the containers but will also kill off those last few germs and smells.

7. If you still have unpleasant odors, repeat the wash process using a cup of baking soda in each container instead of dish soap or vinegar.



Enjoy Eco-Friendly Picnics

During the summertime, we enjoy time off from work and school and the warm weather with picnics and barbecues. Cooking and eating outside can be fun, but moving the celebration indoors also works! Be creative. Whether you're enjoying family meals in your own backyard, on a blanket inside or elsewhere, don't forget the four R's. Here are simple tips for rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling this summer:

Rethink

- If you can't gather with friends and family and maintain safe distancing, share a virtual feast using FaceTime, Skype, Zoom or the phone.
- Have an indoor picnic while watching a nature show or a slideshow of your favorite outdoor spots.
- Enjoy a gathering with neighbors at socially safe distances.

Reduce

- Plan ahead so that you don't have too much food.
- Picnics have typically meant using disposable plates, cups, forks and napkins. Save money and reduce waste by substituting some or all of these for reusable alternatives.

Reuse

- Select washable plates, cups and silverware. Wash, rinse and dry items thoroughly after use. Choose plastic or metal items instead of glass for outdoor use, especially around swimming pools and at beaches.
- Instead of paper napkins, which can easily blow away and become litter, consider using washable napkins, small hand towels or washcloths. Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Thoroughly wash and reuse "disposable" plastic cups, plates, forks and spoons. If using the dishwasher, choose the "air dry" option to avoid damaging them.

Recycle

- Collect bottles and cans for recycling. Remember aluminum cans are infinitely recyclable, as well as unbreakable, which makes them a great choice for your gatherings.
- If you are out enjoying nature away from home, please dispose of your waste responsibly. Bring waste and recyclables home for disposal, if necessary.

Dispose of Hot Ashes and Charcoal Safely

Charcoal and ashes should never be placed straight into your waste container. These materials can pose a fire risk for you and your family and jeopardize the safety and health of our truck drivers, disposal employees and the public. Charcoal, charred firewood and ashes can stay 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, charred wood and ashes as hot.

Follow these tips to properly and safely dispose of ashes and charcoal:

- Allow charcoal and wood to burn out completely and let ashes cool at least two complete days (48 hours).
- Dispose of cold ashes by wrapping

them in heavy-duty aluminum foil, bagging the foil, and placing it in your waste container.

- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, soak them in water and then place them in heavy-duty foil.
- Be sure no other flammable materials (like oil or paper) are near or in the container where the ashes have been disposed.
- After you place ashes or charcoal into your waste container, leave it outdoors, away from wood piles, siding or other flammable materials.
- Never place ash and coal debris in your recycling or green waste container.



Support Local Businesses

As our community continues to recover and adapt, we encourage you to support local restaurants and businesses. Learn more at SealBeachChamber.org.



City of Seal Beach

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We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Republic Services

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