



City of Seal Beach Recycling & Waste Newsletter



WINTER 2021

Large Items to Dispose? Call to Schedule a Pickup



Before you call to request a bulk-item pickup, stop and think. Could this table and chairs be donated? Does the washing machine still work, making it useful to someone else? Would your old laptop be useful to a family member or friend? Before you dispose, consider reuse. Many unwanted

items can be sold or donated so that your "trash" becomes someone else's treasure.

If you can't give away or sell unneeded items, Republic Services provides free pickup for large items, such as furniture and appliances, at the curb. However, you must call Republic Services Customer Service at 800.299.4898 or use the Republic Services app at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to request a special bulk-item pickup.

Remember that household hazardous waste is not picked up at the curb. If you have unneeded household chemicals, such as tub and tile cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, paint, stain, paint thinner, used motor oil, antifreeze, pool chemicals, pesticides and similar hazardous products, you may dispose of them at no charge at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. These centers also accept electronic waste for recycling. For locations and other details, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous or call 714.834.6752.

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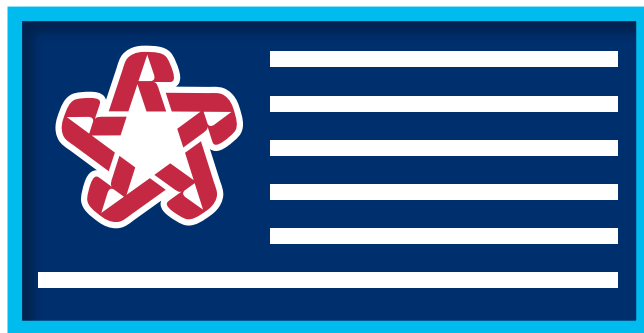
Thank You for Your Patience

During the pandemic, residential waste volumes in our area have increased dramatically as people spend more time at home. Our drivers are continuing to work long hours to pick up this extra material, often working around parked cars and jumping in and out of their trucks to access residential carts. This may affect the time of day that your carts are serviced. Whenever you see the truck on your street, please give the drivers the time and space they need to do their work.

Remember that all recycling, yard waste and trash should be placed inside the appropriate cart. The lid on each container should be closed when you roll it to the curb. This

reduces litter and allows the carts to be efficiently emptied. If you have items that will not fit into your carts, please hold them for the next week or contact Republic Services® to schedule a bulk-item or excess waste pickup. Do not set materials on the ground next to your carts or pile materials on top of the lids.

Help us keep everyone safe and our community clean!



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Holiday Schedule

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

- Christmas – Friday, December 25, 2020
- New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2021
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 31, 2021

If your weekly pickup is on or after the holiday, your pickup that week will be delayed by one day.

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City of Seal Beach

SealBeachCA.gov

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Support Local Businesses
SealBeachChamber.org

Republic Services Is a Leader in Organics Recycling



Republic Services has invested in specialized equipment to process food waste for recycling.

Republic Services is doing its part to help divert yard and food waste away from landfills and to contribute to the circular economy. Last year, Republic Services processed 1.7 billion pounds of yard and food waste at 12 organics recycling facilities in six states, creating more than 275,000 tons of compost. Recently, the National Waste & Recycling Association named Republic Services the Organics Recycler of the Year.

“As one of the nation’s largest recycling and waste services providers, Republic Services is committed to protecting our planet, and extending the life of the materials we recover from the waste stream is a priority,” said Pete Keller, vice president of recycling and sustainability.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, yard and food waste currently make up about 30% of the municipal solid waste that’s sent to landfills. With our organics programs, Republic Services recovers safe and edible food for people and animals to consume and diverts organics to our compost facilities that recycle the material into a nutrient-rich soil amendment, which reduces erosion, builds healthier soils, and helps plants grow.

Several of Republic Services’

composting facilities are technologically advanced and located in California, where there is a greater demand due to legislation mandating the diversion of organic waste from landfills. At the Otay Landfill in Chula Vista, California, the composting facility is completely off the grid, using solar-powered fans and a cover technology requiring little energy consumption to trap odors, dust and emissions. In Anaheim, California, Republic Services installed its first organics preprocessing operation, where specialized equipment processes as much as 20 tons of food waste per hour from restaurants and grocers.

Republic Services has also invested in a food recovery program in Los Angeles and Orange counties. We currently partner with multiple non-profit organizations to collect surplus food from commercial businesses and help feed families in need.

“Organics diversion is being debated across the country, and legislation is driving this material out of landfills,” said Chris Seney, director of organics operations for Republic Services. “Organics is an emerging industry with an enormous amount of opportunity, and Republic Services is proud to be taking the lead.”

Changes to Organics Recycling on the Horizon

Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383, passed in 2016) is the most significant waste reduction mandate to be adopted in California in the last 30 years. SB 1383 requires the state to reduce organic waste disposal by 75% by 2025. Currently, organics comprise two-thirds of the waste disposed in California landfills. Organic waste includes lawn and landscaping debris, wood and lumber, food, and fibers, such as paper and cardboard. The law also requires the state to increase edible food recovery by 20% by 2025. The goal of SB 1383 is to reduce methane emissions at landfills. Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, is produced when organics break down in landfills. Landfills are the third largest emitter of

methane in the State of California. Meeting the requirements of SB 1383 will require the coordinated efforts of state and local governments, businesses and residents. Planning is now underway across California to ensure that the needed programs and services are in place within the next year. These new requirements are going to change the way residents dispose of their solid waste and recyclables. Stay tuned for more information and upcoming changes to your services and possibly rates over the next year or so.

Learn more about SB 1383 by watching CalRecycle’s informational video at CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/education.



Keep Your Yard Waste Clean

The yard waste that you place into your green cart goes to a composting facility rather than the landfill. Because all of the collected yard waste is turned into a nutrient-rich soil amendment to be used in gardens and on farm fields, the material needs to be very clean. Just a little litter or unwanted debris in your yard waste cart can contaminate an entire batch of compost.

Please remember that only yard waste goes into these carts — but **no** plastic bags, bottles, cans or pet waste! Also, although palm trees, yucca plants and other succulents may grow in your yard, palm fronds, yucca leaves and similar plant material must go into the waste cart because it cannot be shredded by the equipment that processes other yard waste.

A California law (Assembly Bill 1594, passed in 2014) required cities to compost yard waste in order to count it as recycling toward state-mandated waste diversion goals. As a result, yard



Credit: Petegar | iStock | Getty Images Plus

waste must now have less than 1% contamination. We need your help to keep your yard waste clean, green and contaminant-free!



Attention, Businesses and Multi-Family Properties

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 recyclable 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 2 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.

Restaurant Recycling: Under Assembly Bill 827, limited-service restaurants in California must now provide customers with visible, clearly marked and



easily accessible containers for recyclables and organics (uneaten food scraps, soiled paper and similar items) adjacent to trash bins. Full-service restaurants need to provide separate bins for use by employees.

For Assistance: You can learn more about all of these requirements at CalRecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial. 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.

Your Recycling Matters

Recyclables are more important to our supply chains than ever. As the economy slowed over the past year, 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 paper and other tissue products 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 cart.
- Put caps and lids back on plastic bottles and jugs after they dry.
- Break down and flatten boxes.
- Keep recycling loose.

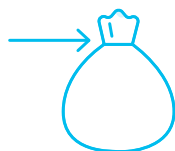
DON'T

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

Learn more at RecyclingSimplified.com.

Tips to help your recycling and waste collection provider operate as efficiently and safely as possible:

Do tie your trash.



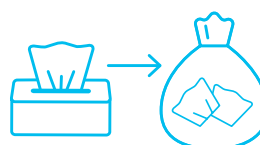
This protects our workers from handling infectious trash, which could inadvertently transmit viruses or bacteria.

Do empty, clean and dry your recyclables.



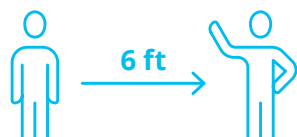
Residual liquids can carry viruses.

Do put contaminated tissues and paper towels directly in the trash.



It's important to properly dispose of tissue and paper towels used by quarantined individuals.

Do observe social distancing with our workforce.



For the health and safety of our essential workers, please keep at least 6 feet of distance.



We'll handle it from here.®

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Do know what to throw into your recycling cart.



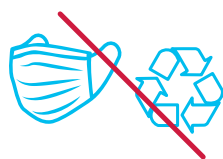
Make sure your recycling cart only contains cardboard, paper, glass bottles and jars, metal cans, and plastic bottles and jugs.

Don't bag your recyclables.



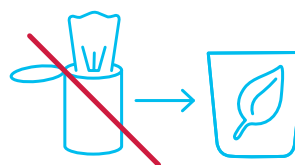
The bags can accumulate residual liquids that can carry viruses and bacteria.

Don't recycle used medical masks, protective gloves and other PPE.



Simply put them in the trash.

Don't put disinfecting wipes in your compost.



The chemicals destroy the good bacteria required for successful composting.

Putting a Stop to Illegal Dumping

We have seen an increase in illegal dumping in our area over the past few months as more residents were home and clearing out items they no longer needed. Not only are illegally dumped items unsightly, but they can also create health and safety hazards and decrease property values. Here's what you can do to help prevent and clean up illegal dumping:

- When you see litter, pick it up. An area that is clean and clear of litter is more likely to stay that way.
- Use appropriate carts for all recycling, trash and yard waste.
- Don't set large items that need to be disposed, such as appliances or furniture, outside until after you make a call to schedule a bulk-item pickup.
- When you spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to your city.
- If you see someone dumping illegally, do not confront them. If possible, discreetly take a photo



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of the activity. Write down a description of the person and/or vehicle, as well as the license plate number. Call your police department's non-emergency number to report this activity.

- Take part in community cleanup programs to help keep your city looking good for residents and visitors.

Recycle Your Real Tree After the Holidays

Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services for two weeks beginning Saturday, December 26, 2020. Be sure to take off all of the lights, ornaments, tinsel and garlands, as well as 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 don't take your tree down until after January 9, 2021, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your yard waste container with the lid closed. You

can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your yard waste 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 the pieces into the trash cart. Artificial trees and wreaths are not recyclable.

Resolutions for a new and improved year

Whatever resolutions you made for 2020 were probably revised by the COVID-19 pandemic, which rewrote much of life over the past year. As you face 2021 with hope and caution, consider some of these resolutions that will reduce waste, save money and help you cope with the year ahead.



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• Focus on family fun:

Last year offered many of us a lot of time with our families. This year, plan ahead for family time by swapping board games, jigsaw puzzles, magazines and books with friends and neighbors. That way everyone gets some fresh fun. You might also look for items to borrow from the local library or purchase used items at a secondhand store.

• Make meal prep more exciting:

Are you tired of making and eating the same meals? Shop your own pantry, fridge and freezer for items that have been forgotten and then search for new recipes to match what you have on hand. Simply search online for the ingredients plus "recipe," and you may be pleasantly surprised with a new family favorite.

• **Cook with scraps:** Using up all of the food you have stretches your grocery shopping dollars and reduces your food waste. Search online for "cooking with scraps" for creative recipes that use up all of the food you buy.

• **Shop smartly online:** Online shopping now reaches into every corner of our lives. It's very easy to

make impulse purchases with just a couple of clicks. Instead, shop online as you would at a physical store by setting a shopping time and using a list. Whenever possible, choose the option to "ship items together" to reduce transportation miles, packaging waste and vehicle emissions. Plus, you can often get cheaper shipping this way.

• **Donate with care:** Many of us cleared out clutter over the past year, often overwhelming charitable organizations with our gently used but unwanted treasures. As you prepare to get rid of old items, be sure to ask yourself whether anyone else might truly want and use them. Donate the good stuff — items that are working and aren't broken, damaged or torn. Give away "treasures," and put the "trash" into the trash cart or request a bulk-item pickup.

• **Shop secondhand:** Don't stop with donating! Shop at secondhand stores for items that you need. This supports the work of local charitable organizations and keeps items in use for as long as possible.

HOLIDAY RECYCLING

NAUGHTY (not recyclable)

- Bubble wrap
- Metallic wrapping paper
- Ribbon and bows
- Gift bags (if coated, laminated, dyed)
- Sticky gift labels
- Foam peanuts

NICE (recyclable)

- Gift boxes
- Tissue paper
- Shoe boxes
- Cards & envelopes
- Gift bag (if paper)
- Wrapping paper (non-metallic)

Looking for Winter Break Activities?

You may be spending lots of time at home with your children or grandchildren this winter. If you're looking for something fun to do, work together to become expert recyclers. Republic Services provides videos and activities online at RecyclingSimplified.com. For activities specifically for the children in your life, click on "At-Home Learning."



We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Republic Services

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local.RepublicServices.com/site/los-angeles-ca

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Please recycle after reading.