



City of Seal Beach Recycling & Waste Newsletter



WINTER 2020

Recycle Your Tree

Seal Beach residents can recycle holiday trees at no additional cost! **Trees will be collected at the curb for two weeks beginning Thursday, December 26.** Please remove all decorations, lights, garland, tinsel and the stand. Trees taller than 6 ft. should be cut in half. If you have questions, please call 800.299.4898.



Credit: loops7 | iE+ | Getty Images

Good Neighbors Building Strong Neighborhoods

Republic Services® has been serving the City of Seal Beach for more than 40 years — initially as Briggeman Disposal Company, which was purchased by Republic Services in 1997. Currently, we collect recycling and waste from more than 5,800 residential customers. In addition, we service more than 840 commercial containers and make over 730 industrial hauls each year. These services are provided by six trucks, all running on clean-burning, low-emission compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel. These services are made possible by 200 exceptional employees who work as drivers, sorters, equipment operators, mechanics, account managers and more.

Over the past year, Republic Services has collected:

- Holiday Trees – 20+ tons
- Bulk Items – 188.14 tons
- Waste – 16,100+ tons
- Recycling – 1,800+ tons
- Construction & Demolition Debris – 740+ tons

From collection routes to community events, our employees are out and about. We take part in National Night Out, the Classic Car Show, the Be Healthy Expo, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade, as well as numerous other local events. One of our staff members serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce. And in 2019, we were named the Business of the Year by the Chamber.

As we mentioned, our roots run deep in this area. Rainbow was founded in Huntington Beach in 1957. In the 1980s, a recycling operation began with hand sorting of cardboard and metal. That growth continued as new services were added. Today in Huntington Beach, Republic Services operates a transfer station that delivers recyclables to regional recycling centers and waste to landfills.



Construction and demolition debris and green waste processing, as well as regional truck maintenance, all occur at the Huntington Beach site. This location is also host to one of Orange County's four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.

We are honored to be your neighbors and proud to continue to serve this community.

Recycling Do's and Don'ts

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 bins. (Dirty diapers aren't recyclable! Please put them in the waste container.)
- Don't put "tangles," such as garden hoses, loose plastic bags, mini-blinds, power cords or Christmas lights, into recycling containers.



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Holiday Collection Schedule

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

Collections will also be delayed by one day the week of Memorial Day in May.



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Get Rid of Large Items the Right Way

Call Republic Services at 800.299.4898 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. You can also schedule a bulk-item pickup through the Republic Services app.

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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Slow Down to Get Around



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Distracted driving causes too many accidents. The easiest way to ensure that everyone gets home safely each evening is to keep your eyes on the road.

Slow Down to Get Around laws, which have been passed in California and 29 other states so far, require that motorists slow down and move over when they see a collection vehicle on its route. These laws are similar to those requiring motorists to move over when they see emergency vehicles pulled to the side of the road or school buses preparing to stop.

“We want motorists to move over when they approach a waste and recycling collection vehicle,” said Darrell Smith, president and CEO of the National Waste & Recycling Association. “Driving safely should be a top priority for anyone getting behind the wheel. These laws carry an important message — stay alert and slow down around

waste and recycling trucks.”

Follow these steps to avoid an accident when you see a recycling or waste truck stopped or slowed:

- Slow down when approaching a recycling or waste 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 recycling or waste truck.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from California Landfills

Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383, passed in 2016) targets pollutants that have a potent effect on our climate. One of these pollutants, methane, is a powerful greenhouse gas that is produced when organics break down in landfills. Landfills are the third largest emitter of methane in the State of California. Currently, organics comprise two-thirds of the waste disposed in California landfills.



food and fibers, such as paper and cardboard.

CalRecycle and the California Air Resources Board estimate that implementing this legislation will create \$17 billion in economic benefit, result in as many as 90 new organic waste recycling facilities and create up to 11,700 permanent jobs in California. In addition, the use of two of the resulting

Reducing methane emissions from California landfills is a top priority of SB 1383, which includes goals to reduce organic waste disposal by 75% and increase edible food recovery by 20% by 2025. Organic waste includes lawn and landscaping debris, wood, lumber,

products, renewable natural gas and compost, will improve both air quality and soil health.

Learn more about SB 1383 at CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/education.

Recycling Tips for the Holiday Season

The holidays are the most wonderful (and wasteful) time of the year. Americans generate 25% more waste than average between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day — almost 1,000 pounds per household.



WHAT TO RECYCLE	WHAT TO THROW AWAY	WHAT TO DONATE/REUSE	WHAT TO COMPOST
Plastic bottles Soda cans Plastic cups Cardboard boxes Wrapping paper	Foil wrapping paper Cellophane wrapping Disposable decorations Polystyrene peanuts Bubble wrap	Gift bags Ribbon Bows Decorations Packing materials Artificial trees Clothing and shoes	Fruits Vegetables Bread Pasta Chips



Host a Sustainable Holiday Party

Set up separate labeled containers for recycling and food alongside your waste to help guests dispose of waste materials properly. Don't bag your recyclables. Keep them loose and free of food and liquid residue.



Keep Your Wrapping Simple (And Recyclable!)

Think twice when it comes to wrapping paper. Most foil and plastic-coated papers cannot be recycled. Instead, try folding or re-rolling your wrapping paper to reuse it. Sticky gift tags are not recyclable by themselves, but they are acceptable if affixed to an envelope or wrapping paper.



Separate Toy Boxes

Toy packaging made of heavy cardboard is only recyclable when the cardboard is separated from the plastic, including the plastic window on the box of a doll or action figure. Make sure you separate these before adding them to your recycling container.

We're Hiring

Republic Services is always looking for talented, hard-working employees. Check out available positions at **RepublicServices.jobs**.



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.

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.

Properly Dispose of Used Medical Sharps

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 recycling or waste container.
2. Purchase a sharps container from a local pharmacy. Or, write "SHARPS" with a permanent marker on an empty detergent 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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Feed the Hungry and Reduce Food Waste

Donating edible food is one way that businesses can comply with the requirements of AB 1826. Republic Services has partnered with several local food banks to connect businesses with excess food to agencies that can use it. If your business is interested in donating food through these partnerships, contact Republic Services at 562.347.4100.

Thanks to California's Good Samaritan Law, donors are protected from liability when donating food in good faith to non-profit organizations which, in turn, give the food away for free. To learn more about food donation, visit WasteNotOC.org.



Empty. Clean. Dry.™
Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid

Don't bag it
Never put recyclables in bags or containers

Place these items in the recycling container



Flattened Cardboard



Paper



Metal Cans



Plastic Bottles & Jugs



NEVER place these items in the recycling container



Greasy Pizza Boxes



Food



Diapers



Learn more at RepublicServices.com

We'll handle it from here.®

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Boxes, boxes everywhere!

More and more people are choosing the convenience of e-commerce. Buying items online and having them delivered to your home is popular year-round. Especially during the holidays, your family might see those shipping boxes, packing materials and padded envelopes begin to pile up.

According to *Forbes* magazine, the average American family of four receives 84 packages per year. Satish Jindel, the president of Ship Matrixa, the firm that tracks delivery for the major carriers, estimates that from Thanksgiving through Christmas 2018 alone, the U.S. Post Office handled 915 million packages, UPS delivered 814 million boxes, and FedEx and smaller carriers processed 588 million packages.

With this huge volume of online packaging, we simply cannot throw it all away without overflowing our waste containers. Instead, we need to reuse or recycle what we can. Most shipping boxes are made from corrugated cardboard, which consists of three or more layers. Often, there are one or more squiggly or zigzag layers of cardboard sandwiched between two flat layers. Corrugated cardboard is great for protecting items during shipping or moving. Because of its strength, it is both sturdy and reusable.

Before tossing boxes into the recycling container, consider how you might get one more use out of them instead. Free online marketplaces like Freecycle, Craigslist or Nextdoor often allow you to connect with neighbors who are moving and need boxes and

packing materials. You could also use the boxes to make crafts with your children or grandchildren. If you need ideas for making cool toys out of recycled boxes, check out this website, Momjunction.com/articles/cardboard-box-crafts-for-kids_00382343, or search online. Give the boxes one more use before recycling!

When efforts at reuse are exhausted, here is what to do with the packaging that remains:

- Cardboard shipping boxes should be recycled. Please empty and then flatten the box before putting it into a recycling container.
- Deflated plastic packing pillows, bubble wrap and plastic mailing envelopes can be recycled in the same way you would recycle plastic bags and other plastic film. Collect the bags and film in your house and bundle them. Then, you can drop them off for recycling at a grocery or department store with a designated plastic bag recycling bin or put them into your curbside recycling container.
- Packing peanuts are typically made of expanded polystyrene foam and are not accepted for recycling. These are accepted at some package shipping stores for reuse. Call ahead to make sure they are currently accepting the items you have.
- Shipping envelopes and other packaging which contain a mix of paper and plastic that cannot be separated should go into the waste container.

See Something? Say and Do Something!



When items are dumped illegally, whether on roadsides, in alleys, along creeks or on empty lots, it affects all of us. What begins as a nuisance and an eyesore can quickly grow as the dump site attracts more illegally dumped items. These piles become a breeding ground for disease-carrying rodents, insects and other pests. They pose safety hazards to people, especially children. They can decrease surrounding property values. Plus, they cost taxpayers millions of dollars to clean up each year. 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 containers for all of your recycling, waste 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 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.

Eco-friendly Online Shipping Tip



Whenever possible, choose an online shipping option that uses the fewest possible shipments for the items you ordered. This reduces the number of boxes and delivery trucks needed, creating less waste and resulting in fewer emissions and less wear and tear on our roads.

Easy Account Management

You don't have to get on the phone to contact Republic Services customer service department. Instead, you can use the Republic Services app. With the app, you can schedule a bulk-item or electronics pickup or report a missed pickup. You can also request repair of containers or find new products and services. Visit RepublicServices.com/Account to sign up or download the app.



We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Republic Services

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