



Sustainability in Action



Organics Recycling Update

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a state law aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by targeting short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane gas. Enacted in 2016, it places significant regulations on organic waste, including food and yard waste, and mandates that residents, businesses, multi-family properties and local governments divert this waste from landfills through composting and other sustainable practices. The law established a goal of reducing the volume of organic waste disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025.

The City of Brea has implemented a three-stream container system consisting of trash, mixed recycling and organics (yard/food waste) to comply with this state mandate.

Organic waste includes all food scraps, including cooked meat, fish, poultry, bones, fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice and grains; food-soiled paper, such as greasy pizza boxes, coffee filters, wet paper towels and soiled napkins; and yard trimmings, including grass clippings, leaves, small branches, plants, weeds and yard waste.

Residents must place food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings in their organics carts. Please do not place these items in plastic bags. Instead, use paper bags and newspaper, or simply place loose food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings into their organics container. It is recommended to use a kitchen pail or similar transportable container to take materials from your kitchen to your organics container for collection by Republic Services.

Multi-family properties also have additional responsibilities under SB 1383 to help ensure all residents understand how to sort their waste properly. Property owners and managers are required to provide educational information about recycling, organics and proper waste sorting to tenants at least once a year, and they must share this information with new residents within about two weeks of move in.

Businesses and both multi-family and industrial properties can choose from a variety of containers to properly dispose of the organic waste they generate on-site. This includes choosing the size (as small as a 35-gallon to as large as a 2-cubic-yard container), food-waste only containers or commingled organics (food waste and green waste) containers.

SAVE THE DATE: Paper Shredding & Compost Giveaway Event – June 6th

The City of Brea is hosting a Paper Shredding and Compost Giveaway Event on Saturday, June 6, 2026. The event will take place from 7 to 10 a.m. in the parking lot of the Brea Community Center, located at 695 Madison Way, Brea. Single-family and multi-family living Brea residents are invited to bring up to five (5) bankers-size boxes of paper or other media suitable for shredding. In addition, each vehicle may collect up to four (4) bags of compost during the event. **PROOF OF BREA RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED AND WILL BE VERIFIED BY ON-SITE EVENT STAFF.**

What Goes Where?

Green & Food Waste

No Plastic or Compostable Bags



Recycling

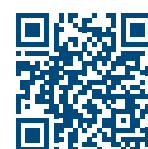
Empty, Clean and Dry



Trash



For those who subscribe to Republic Services' food-waste only containers, which are typically restaurants, clear, plastic bags are allowed. Be sure to separate uneaten food, spoiled food, and kitchen scraps and dispose in the food-waste only container. If the property has the commingled organics containers, which is common for multi-family properties or businesses that generate both food waste and green waste, then paper bags are the only "bags" allowed in the container. Having accessible containers for employees, tenants, and customers to separate their waste into the proper stream is crucial for preventing contamination.



For the latest updates regarding organics recycling in Brea, please visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca.

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Keep Recycling Clean

Recycling contamination might seem like a small issue, but it has wide-reaching effects that impact the environment. When non-recyclable items are placed in recycling carts, they can spoil entire loads of otherwise usable materials. Instead of being processed into new products, contaminated recyclables are often sent to landfills, making recycling programs less effective while contributing to overflowing disposal sites. Contamination is also a concern in organics and trash streams, since placing the wrong materials in any cart can interfere with proper processing and disposal.

Contamination also creates serious challenges at recycling and organics facilities. Hazardous materials, sharp objects or improper waste can injure workers and damage sorting equipment, leading to costly repairs and disruptions in service. Plastic bags, flexible packaging such as plastic film or candy and chip wrappers, bubble wrap and Styrofoam belong in the trash cart, not the recycling cart. Animal waste and palm fronds also belong in the trash cart and are not accepted in the organics cart.

Simple steps at home can prevent contamination. Clearly labeling bins helps everyone remember what belongs where. Containers should always be empty, clean and dry before being placed in the recycling cart, with caps secured back on. In the organics cart, Republic Services does not allow BPI or compostable plastic bags, so residents should use paper bags or wrap organics in newspaper, napkins or paper towels to help absorb moisture. By keeping all carts free of contamination, residents help protect workers, reduce landfill waste and support successful recycling and organics programs.

Required Recycling Access for Customers and Employees in Food Service

Under Assembly Bill 827, limited-service restaurants in California must 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 must provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also



applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption. You can download container and cabinet labels from [RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources](https://www.RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources).



Edible Food Recovery

To reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, SB 1383 requires that California recovers or rescues 20% of surplus edible food to feed people by 2025. The law directs food-generating businesses to recover the maximum amount of their edible food that would otherwise go to landfills and to maintain records of their food donation activities. SB 1383 places mandated food donors into two tiers. As of January 1, 2024, large food businesses, such as wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers and grocery stores, as well as some cafeterias, restaurants and venues, are required to



comply. These businesses must establish an agreement with an edible food recovery organization (EFRO) and track the types of food donated, the frequency of food donations and the quantity of food donated. For more information on what is required of your business and local partners, please visit [Cityofbrea.gov/businessrecycle](https://www.Cityofbrea.gov/businessrecycle).



Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with State law, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual contamination monitoring reviews at randomly selected addresses for all waste hauler routes. Representatives, in clearly identified uniforms, will be in the community reviewing the contents placed in the organic waste, recycling and trash containers. Common contaminants observed during recent monitoring include clean cardboard, plastic containers and organic waste such as food scraps and yard trimmings in the trash container, plastic bags, non-recyclable plastic such as film plastics and polystyrene and food-soiled paper in the recycling container, and plastic bags, non-recyclable plastic such as film plastics and polystyrene, along with clean cardboard and clothing or textiles in the organics container. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the container identifying the incorrect item(s) that contaminated the stream. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Credit: adamkaz | Getty Images

**BATTERY
BEWARE**

**TAKE CHARGE.
STAY SAFE.**

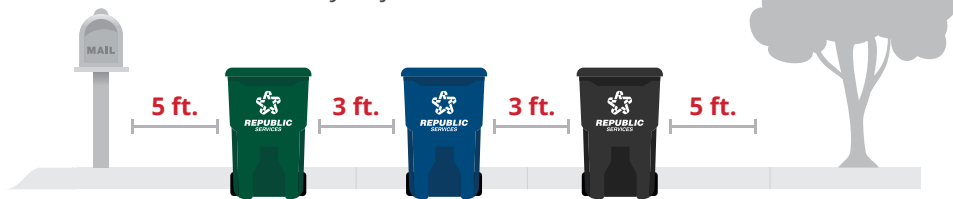
Dangers of Lithium Batteries



[RepublicServices.com/lithiumbatteries](https://www.RepublicServices.com/lithiumbatteries)

Residential Cart Placement Tips

- Place carts either in the street gutter, against the curb, in front of premises or adjacent to premises in the alley or easement in the rear of premises.
- Place carts prior to 7 a.m. on your regular collection day.
- Place carts with the lid openings facing toward the street.
- Place carts in a visible location at least 3 feet apart and 5 feet away from mailboxes, trees, basketball hoops, cars or other stationary objects.



Why Wasn't My Container Serviced?

- Overfilled or overweight container
- Insufficient space to service cart, such as car blocking container
- Hazardous waste found in container
- Contamination from organic waste, recycling or trash placed in the incorrect container
- Container lid not closed flat
- Items placed outside the container, either on the lid or on the ground





Safely Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any product in your home that could be poisonous or dangerous if thrown into the trash. HHW includes car and lawn care products, paints and paint thinners, cleaning supplies, solvents, light bulbs, batteries and more. Never toss HHW into the trash. HHW can endanger children or pets, result in spills in your neighborhood, or cause fires in collection trucks if it is placed into curbside carts. Orange County residents can dispose of HHW for FREE at any of Orange County's four HHW Collection Centers. The closest HHWCC is in Anaheim at 1071 N. Blue Gum Street. Electronic waste items, such as televisions, computers, tablets and cell phones, are also accepted at these centers. Proof of County residence is required.

Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday
(closed on major holidays and during rainy weather)

Locations:

- 1071 N. Blue Gum St., Anaheim, 92806
 - 17121 Nichols Ln., Gate 6, Huntington Beach, 92647
 - 6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, 92618
 - 32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, 92675
- OCLandfills.com/hazardous



Medication Disposal

Unused or expired medication left in your home can lead to accidental poisoning or allow access for misuse of the medication. Many local drugstores accept medication for proper disposal. You can quickly search online for “medication disposal near me” to



locate permanent disposal locations nearby. For more details, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal.



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Getty Images Plus

Safe Handling of Medical Sharps

Many people use medical “sharps,” such as needles, syringes or lancets, to manage health conditions at home. If someone in your household uses sharps, it is important to protect your family and your community by disposing of them safely and responsibly.

One convenient location is the County's Household Hazardous Waste Free Drop-Off, located at the Republic Services Facility in Anaheim at 1071 N. Blue Gum Street. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



To prepare sharps for drop-off, place them in a heavy-duty, puncture-resistant container with a tight-fitting lid, such as a plastic detergent or milk jug. When the container is full, take it to a proper disposal site. Do not place sharps in your carts for regular collection. For more information about safe sharps disposal and a list of approved drop-off centers, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal.



Your Home Is Full of Reuse Ideas

Before something goes into the trash or recycling bin, it's worth taking a second look. Many homes are full of materials that still have plenty of life left in them. Cardboard boxes, glass jars, paper, fabric scraps and plastic containers are often thrown away simply because their original purpose has ended. With a little creativity, these everyday items can be reused in ways that save money and reduce waste.



Credit: ikercelek | E+ | Getty Images Plus

Cardboard boxes can become storage organizers, playhouses or craft supplies. Glass jars work well for holding screws, art materials or pantry items. Scrap paper can be used for drawing, note-taking, or packing material. Even packaging materials like tissue paper or clean wrapping paper can be reused for future gifts or projects. Seeing these items as resources instead of trash helps extend their usefulness and keeps them out of the landfill longer.

Reusing materials at home also teaches problem-solving and creativity, especially for kids. When children are encouraged to build, create or organize using items already on hand, they learn that new solutions don't always require buying something new. This mindset supports waste reduction at the source, which is one of the most effective ways to reduce environmental impact. By noticing and using the resources already around you, your home becomes a place where materials are valued, reused thoughtfully and given more than one purpose before being discarded.



Credit: AZmanJaka | E+ | Getty Images

New CRV Law Adds Wine and Spirits

Senate Bill (SB) 1013 expands California's Bottle Bill to include wine and distilled-spirit containers, making them eligible for California Redemption Value (CRV). Businesses that sell these beverages must ensure containers are properly labeled with CRV messaging and work with approved recycling or take-back programs to support customer redemption. SB 1013 also strengthens convenience-zone requirements, increases access to redemption options, and updates responsibilities for retailers and beverage distributors.

New Shopping Bag Requirements

Senate Bill 1053 further reduces single use plastic waste by eliminating the distribution of plastic carryout bags at stores. Paper bags are now available for purchase where allowed, but bringing a reusable bag remains the most sustainable option. Reusable bags help reduce waste and support California's broader efforts to decrease plastic pollution and keep recyclable materials clean and marketable.



Bulk Item Pickup

Furniture and old appliances are among the most common items illegally dumped along roadways, in parks and on vacant lots. There is no need to dump these items improperly. The City of Brea and Republic Services provide residents with three free bulk item pickups per calendar year, with up to 20 items collected during each scheduled service. In addition to these three pickups, single-family residents can schedule electronic waste (e-waste) pickups at any time throughout the year at no charge. If you live in a multi-family property, you should coordinate with your property management to arrange for bulk item pickup and determine the best location for placing items for collection. Please note that there is a bulk item pickup fee for multi-family complexes and commercial properties. To schedule a pickup, call Republic Services at **714.238.2444**.

If you spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the City. If you see someone dumping illegally, do not confront them. If possible, discreetly take a photo of the activity and write down a description of the person, as well as the vehicle make, color and license plate number. Call the Police Department's non-emergency number to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our city looking good for residents and visitors.

Recycle or Repair?

When devices break or become outdated, it is important to think beyond simply throwing them away. Responsible electronics recycling helps protect natural resources and keeps harmful materials out of landfills, making it an important part of reducing waste in our communities. Electronics recycling is the process of collecting, dismantling, and reusing or refurbishing electronic devices. It is an essential practice in today's world where electronic waste has become a significant environmental concern. Electronic devices contain various hazardous materials, such as lead, mercury and cadmium, which can cause serious harm to the environment if they're not handled correctly. By recycling our electronic devices, we prevent these harmful substances from contaminating soil and water when disposed of improperly or from ending up in landfills.



Credit: simon2579 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

So how do you handle electronic devices in a sustainable and responsible manner? First, strive to extend the lifespan of devices by taking good care of them, protecting them and investing in repairs as necessary. This reduces the demand for new products and the associated environmental impact of both manufacturing and disposal.

Second, when it is time to upgrade or replace electronic devices, consider donating or selling them instead of discarding them. Many organizations and individuals can benefit from used electronics, promoting local reuse, giving devices a second life, and reducing waste.

Finally, with devices that are beyond repair or that are unwanted by others, research recycling options. In some cases, manufacturers may offer recycling programs and even discounts on new devices when you trade in an old one. Otherwise, be sure to recycle your old devices through our bulk item collection program or at one of the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.

Contact Us

City of Brea – Recycle Brea (Public Works)
714.990.7691 | RecycleBrea@cityofbrea.gov

Republic Services
714.238.2444 | OCRecycles@RepublicServices.com

Hear What's Happening Around Brea

- **Volunteering in the Community** – Whether you can help for one day or make a longer commitment, volunteers play an important role in keeping events running smoothly. If you are interested, complete and return the Volunteer Form to BreaSpecialEvents@cityofbrea.gov. For questions, call **714.990.7771**.

WE INVITE YOU TO LISTEN IN AS

BREA TALKS

- **Stay Informed with Brea Talks** – Stay connected with local news and services by listening to Brea Talks, the City's official podcast, available on major platforms, YouTube, and BREAtv, with episodes covering topics like trash sorting and organics recycling.



- **Follow the City and Read the Brea Line Newsletter** – Stay up to date on City news and events by following the City of Brea on social media. You can also subscribe to the City's Brea Line newsletter for updates delivered to your inbox. For more information, visit Cityofbrea.gov/483/Brea-Line-Newsletter.

Join the Republic Services Family

Republic Services is always looking for talented, hardworking employees. If you would like to stay close to home and advance in a well-paying career, consider joining our team. Available jobs in our region include drivers, equipment operators, mechanics, shop technicians, material sorters, laborers, customer service specialists, dispatchers, recycling coordinators, sales representatives, office support staff members and more. To see and apply for open positions, visit RepublicServices.jobs.



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