Brea Recycling & Waste Newsletter



Sustainability in Action

SUMMER 2025

RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca | 800.700.8610

What SB 1383 Means for You

The City of Brea, along with every jurisdiction in the State of California, is required by State law to implement an organic waste recycling program. California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) requires reductions of organic waste in landfills as a part of a greater plan to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane. In addition, the bill requires that all residential and commercial (multifamily & business) customers have in place a three-stream container system consisting of trash, mixed recycling, and organics (yard/food waste).

To ensure compliance with SB 1383, Republic Services will be delivering containers throughout this Summer to Brea residents and commercial customers who are missing certain waste streams.

If your current waste and recycling containers are not the right size for your property - whether it be too large or too small, Republic Services offers a variety of container sizes to better suit your needs. If you have any questions or would like to request specific container sizes, please contact Republic Services at OCrecycles@RepublicServices.com or call 714.238.2444.

Food Recovery Requirements for Businesses

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 in need 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 quantity of food donated. For more information on what is required of your business and local partners, please visit the cityofbrea.gov/businessrecycle.

Mark Your Calendar

Interested in compost and mulch year-round? Visit the County of Orange webpage to schedule your appointment for pickup at oclandfills.com/compost. Proof of Brea residency is required.

 Paper Shredding and Compost Giveaway Event – The City of Brea is hosting a Paper Shredding and Compost Giveaway Event on Saturday, September 6, 2025. The event will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. in the parking lot of the Brea Community Center, located at 695 Madison Way, Brea, CA 92821. Residents and multifamily premises customers are invited to bring up to five "Bankers" boxes of paper or other media suitable for shredding. In addition, each person may collect up to four bags of compost during the event.

Cart Color Transition



PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID GREENFIELD, IN PERMIT NO. 220

Republic Services 1131 N. Blue Gum Street Anaheim, CA 92806

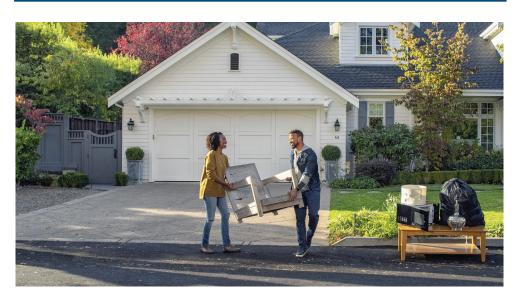
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Avoid Common Recycling Mistakes

- Know What's Recyclable –
 Place all clean, dry paper and
 cardboard in your recycling cart
 or dumpster. Also, recycle metal
 cans, glass bottles and jars,
 and plastic bottles, jugs and
 containers in the same cart or
 dumpster.
- Label Bins Clearly Inside your home, label your recycling bins clearly to remind everyone what can and cannot be recycled. Simple, visible labels can make a big difference.



- Empty, Clean and Dry Empty bottles and other containers, remove excess residue, rinse them out, and allow them to air-dry.
- Keep It Loose Don't bag your recycling. Place all items loose into the recycling cart or dumpster.
- Avoid Hazardous Materials Never put tanglers, like hoses or cords, or hazardous waste, such as batteries, chemicals or medical sharps, into your recycling cart or dumpster. These items can endanger workers and damage equipment.
- Steer Clear of Contaminants Keep "yucky" items out of your recycling cart or dumpster. These include dirty recyclables, greasy pizza boxes, and diapers.
- Know What NOT to Throw Items like plastic bags, plastic wrap, palm fronds, Styrofoam, shredded paper, pet waste and diapers belong in the trash. Food-soiled napkins, paper towels and greasy pizza boxes should go in organics. Batteries and lightbulbs must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- Learn More For more tips about recycling, visit RecyclingSimplified.com.



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 bulky 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 bulky item pickup and determine the best location for placing items for collection. Residents of multi-family complexes and commercial properties may schedule bulky item pickups for a fee by calling 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 nonemergency number to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our city looking good for residents and visitors.

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.

Properly 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.

Homebound seniors and disabled residents of Orange County may qualify for scheduled pickups of HHW. If you need more information about this special assistance, please call 714.834.4000.

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 Page 3 Summer 2025

Where Should Your Batteries Go?

Batteries power everything from smartphones and laptops to electric bikes, power tools, toys, and home backup systems. But behind their everyday convenience lies a serious safety risk. When batteries, especially lithium-ion types, are damaged, overcharged, or improperly disposed of, they can cause fires that are extremely difficult to control. These types of fires are becoming more common, including a collection truck fire in Fountain Valley in December 2022 caused by a discarded lithium-ion battery. Similar incidents across the country have resulted in injuries, equipment damage, facility shutdowns, and disruptions to waste services. Most of these fires occur when batteries are thrown into regular trash or recycling bins. Once compacted, punctured, or overheated during waste processing, they can ignite quickly and spread fast.

The best way to prevent battery-related fires is through proper handling and disposal. Always unplug devices once they are fully charged to prevent overheating, and store batteries in a cool, dry place away from sharp or heavy objects. Most importantly, never place batteries in your curbside trash or recycling cart. In Brea and throughout Orange County, household battery recycling is free and easy. The closest Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center is located at 1071 North Blue Gum Street in Anaheim and is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many local retail stores also accept used batteries for recycling. To find a nearby drop-off location, visit **Call2Recycle.org**. Before disposal, be sure to tape over the terminals on 9-volt batteries.



Break Down Those Boxes

Please break down and flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes. First, it will save a lot of room in your recycling cart. Second, it keeps items from getting caught inside the box. At the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), staff members and machines work together to identify and sort materials as they travel rapidly over and through equipment. When other recyclables are inside boxes, they aren't visible and can't be separated by category, leading to contaminated bales of boxes and lost recyclable containers. Thank you for your help!



Picnic Without Plastic This Summer



As warmer weather arrives, many families and friends head outdoors to enjoy picnics. While summer gatherings are a time to relax and connect, they can also lead to a surprising amount of waste, especially from single-use plastics. From utensils and straws, to food containers and plastic wrap, the convenience of disposable items often comes at the cost of long-term environmental harm. Fortunately, with just a bit of planning, it's easy to enjoy a picnic that's both fun and friendly to the environment.

Start by thinking about what you really need. Reusable picnicware like lightweight dishes, cups and silverware can be packed ahead of time and used again for future outings. Cloth napkins and washable food containers help cut down on trash and reduce your reliance on plastic wrap and bags. Many people already have these items at home, and simply bringing them along can make a big difference.

Food and drink choices matter too. Buying in bulk and packing snacks or meals into reusable containers helps eliminate excess packaging. Instead of bottled water or juice boxes, refillable bottles keep drinks cold and waste low. Even simple changes, like skipping the pre-packaged fruit and slicing your own at home, reduce plastic waste without adding much effort.

If your picnic includes grilling or takeout, consider bringing your own reusable takeout kit. This could include containers, a few serving tools and a small cooler to carry leftovers back home. Leftovers packed this way tend to stay fresher and are less likely to be forgotten or wasted. A plastic-free picnic doesn't mean giving up convenience or enjoyment.

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.

Planning a Party?

No one wants to host a party or family gathering and run out of food. As a result, we tend to make the opposite mistake — overbuying and overpreparing. By properly estimating how much food you need, you can save yourself time and money. Plus, you'll reduce waste and unwanted leftovers. To calculate what you'll need for your next party or celebration, use the "Guest-imator" tool at SavetheFood.com/guestimator.

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What Do I Do With Old Paint?

Oil-based paint is considered hazardous waste and should be delivered to one of the Orange County HHW Collection Centers. Latex paint is not hazardous. However, liquid paint cannot go into your trash cart. Here are a couple options for proper disposal of paint:

- Recycle paint through California's Paint Care program. For locations and other details, visit PaintCare.org.
- Deliver paint to one of the Orange County HHW Collection Centers. For locations and hours, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous.



Contact Us

Trash Collection Service 800.700.8610

Household Hazardous Waste • Orange County 714.834.6752

Public Disposal Center 800.700.8610

Bulk Item Pickup 800.700.8610

Billing • City of Brea 714.990.7687

City of Brea - Public Works Department 714.990.7691



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Stay Informed with Brea Talks

WE INVITE YOU TO LISTEN IN AS





Stay informed and connected with what's happening in your community by tuning in to Brea Talks, the official podcast of the City of Brea. Whether you're a resident, business owner, or just enjoy spending time in Brea, Brea Talks offers an insider's perspective on key topics and issues that shape the city's services, events, and daily life. Episodes are available on all major podcast platforms, making it easy to listen on the go. You can also catch Brea Talks on the City of Brea's YouTube Channel or tune in to BREAtv, where the podcast airs daily at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Listen to the latest episodes about sorting items in your trash carts and organics recycling.

Download the Republic Services App

Republic Services gives you one simple tool to manage your account needs. Visit **RepublicServices.com/ Account/login** to sign up or download the app.



Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with SB 1383, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual contamination monitoring reviews. Representatives, in clearly identified safety vests, will be in the community reviewing the contents of organics, recycling and trash containers. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the container identifying the item that was incorrectly disposed. Contamination fees may be assessed. Please note that these reviews are mandated by state law and will occur on an annual basis. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Join the Republic Services Family

Republic Services is always looking for talented, hard-working 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**.



Holiday Collection Schedule

- Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 27, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day Thursday, December 25, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- New Year's Day Thursday, January 1, 2026 (service delayed one day)

