

# City of Brea

800.700.8610 | [RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca](https://RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca)



Sustainability in Action

## Organics

### Acceptable Items

#### Yard Waste



#### Food Waste



#### Food-Soiled Paper & Paper Bags\*



\*You can place food in a paper bag.

### Unacceptable Items



Recyclables



Plastic Bags & Wrap



Fats, Oil & Grease



Construction Waste



Trash & Pet Waste



Hazardous Waste

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## What Do I Do With My Organics?

When food and yard waste end up in landfills, they decompose and release methane, a greenhouse gas. In fact, landfills contribute more than 20% of methane emissions. 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.

### Residents

If you have carts that are collected curbside by Republic Services, food scraps and food-soiled paper go into your organics cart mixed with yard trimmings. If you live in a multi-family complex with dumpsters, food scraps go into the green or brown organics cart or the organics dumpster with the green or brown lid at your property. Your property should have food waste collection containers. If your property does not, please contact your property management or Republic Services at **714.238.2444**. Please do not bag food scraps in plastic bags. Place loose food scraps and food-soiled paper into the cart or dumpster. You may use paper bags or

newspaper. It is recommended to use a kitchen pail or similar container to take materials from your kitchen to your green or brown containers for collection by Republic Services.

### Businesses

All commercial businesses should now have recycling and organics recycling programs in place. Republic Services offers FREE technical assistance to help you with these recycling programs. Call Republic Services at **714.238.2444** to be connected with a Sustainability Advisor who can provide additional advice or assist with adjusting service levels for your business's unique needs.

### Contamination Monitoring & Inspections

Republic Services and City staff will be conducting cart and dumpster inspections throughout the year to ensure proper sorting and disposal of materials. You may see uniformed staff reviewing the contents of your recycling, organics and trash containers. If an improper item is found, a courtesy tag will be placed on the cart notifying you of the incorrect items. These educational reviews are mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and will occur on an annual basis. You may receive additional charges if staff continuously finds improper items in your containers. If you have any questions on how to properly dispose of any materials, please call Republic Services at **714.238.2444**.

### Additional Information



For the latest updates regarding organics recycling in Brea, please visit [RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca](https://RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca).

## Mark Your Calendar

- **Paper Shredding & Compost Giveaway Event** - 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.



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\*Event may conclude prior to 10 a.m. should space in shredding vehicle and/or bagged compost run out.

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Republic Services  
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## Know What Goes Where

Keeping recycling clean is one of the simplest ways to protect the environment and make local programs more effective. While it may seem like a small detail, contamination has wide reaching impacts. When non-recyclable items are placed in recycling carts, they can spoil entire loads of otherwise usable material. Instead of being turned into new products, those materials are often redirected to landfills, which reduces the overall success of recycling efforts and adds pressure to already limited disposal space. Similar issues can occur in organics and trash streams, where placing the wrong materials in any cart can interfere with proper processing and disposal.

Contamination also creates real challenges at recycling and organics facilities. Items that do not belong, especially hazardous materials or sharp objects, can put workers at risk and damage sorting equipment. These disruptions can lead to costly repairs and delays in service, affecting the entire system. Materials like plastic bags, flexible plastic film, candy and chip wrappers, bubble wrap, and Styrofoam should be placed in the trash rather than recycling, since they can tangle machinery and are not accepted in most programs. Animal waste and palm fronds should also go in the trash, as they are not suitable for organics processing.

At home, a few simple habits can make a meaningful difference. Clearly labeling bins helps everyone remember what belongs in each cart and reduces confusion. Recycling should always be placed loose in the cart rather than bagged, which allows it to be sorted properly at the facility. Containers should be empty, clean, and dry before being recycled, with caps placed back on to keep materials together. Keeping food residue off recyclables is especially important, since items like greasy pizza boxes or soiled containers can contaminate otherwise clean materials.

Understanding what belongs in each cart is key to avoiding common mistakes. Clean paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, along with plastic bottles and jugs, are all accepted in most recycling programs when prepared properly. Items that are dirty or contaminated, such as diapers or heavily soiled materials, should be kept out of recycling. In the organics cart, food scraps and food-soiled paper like napkins, paper towels, and paper plates are accepted, but compostable plastic bags are not allowed by Republic Services. Instead, residents can use paper bags or wrap organics in newspaper or paper products to help manage moisture.

## Education Requirements for Commercial Properties & Businesses

- Supply and allow access to adequate number, size, and location of containers with sufficient labels or colors for employees, contractors, tenants, and customers, consistent with the City's collection system.
- Annually provide employees, contractors, tenants, and customers a written description of organic waste recovery requirements and proper sorting of materials into their appropriate containers.
- Provide to new tenants, before or within fourteen (14) days of occupation of the premises, a written description of the location of containers, the rules governing their use at each property, and the requirements to source separate materials.

## Customer Recycling is Mandatory for Food Service Businesses

Under Assembly Bill (AB) 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 containers for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and any 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).

If you have questions about your business recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at **714.238.2444**.

## Solid Waste Rates Adjusting on July 1

Beginning July 1, 2026, trash and recycling services for all residential and commercial customers will be adjusted. The standard three-container (trash, recycle, organics) monthly residential rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27 will be adjusted from \$31.27 to \$34.34. The rate for commercial customers with a three cubic-yard container, with pickup once a week, will be adjusted from \$192.44 to \$216.53.

This rate adjustment is due to two factors: index adjustments previously agreed to in the restated amended agreement with Republic Services, and most significantly, by the County of Orange Waste & Recycling's (OCWR) new disposal rates. Under the terms of the City's agreement with Republic Services, 85% of the City's solid waste and recycling rate component is for the collection and processing and 15% for disposal costs at County landfills. Disposal rates are determined at County landfills by OCWR, which are pass-through costs paid by ratepayers, and reflect their cost of operation, maintenance, infrastructure, and costs related to legislative mandates. Therefore, the disposal rate increase will apply only to 15% of the total rate paid by ratepayers. The City of Brea does not have authority over OCWR's disposal rates. Should you have questions about the disposal portion of the rates, please contact OCWR by calling **714.834.4000**, or sending an email to [info@ocwr.ocgov.com](mailto:info@ocwr.ocgov.com).





Credit: South\_agency | E+ | Getty Images

## Back-to-School Savings

As the back-to-school season approaches, it's time to gear up for another academic year. However, this doesn't mean you'll have to break the bank. With proper planning and smart choices, you can navigate back-to-school shopping while saving money and reducing waste.

- Take inventory of what you already have. Many items, like backpacks, binders, and calculators, can be reused from previous years, saving you money and reducing unnecessary purchases.
- Shop secondhand. Thrift stores and online marketplaces are treasure troves for affordable and gently used school supplies. From clothing to textbooks, buying secondhand not only saves money, it also reduces the demand for new production.
- Invest in durable, high-quality items that will last longer. While they may have a higher upfront cost, they will save you money in the long run by eliminating the need for frequent replacements. Look for products made from sustainable materials, like recycled paper.
- Take advantage of sales and discounts by planning your shopping in advance. Start looking for deals early, and consider bulk-buying essentials, like pencils and notebooks, to save both money and packaging waste.
- Try DIY. Get creative and make your own school supplies whenever possible. From decorating plain notebooks to sewing your own pencil case, DIY projects are not only fun, but they are also eco-friendly and budget-friendly.
- Pack a waste-free lunch. Invest in reusable containers, water bottles and utensils to pack your lunch. Not only does this reduce single-use plastic waste, but it also saves money compared to buying pre-packaged meals every day.

## 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 container. 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!



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## Clear the Clutter this Summer

Brea residents can receive three (3) free bulky item pickups per calendar year, with up to 20 items per pickup. In addition to these services, residents can also schedule to recycle their e-waste any time throughout the year, at no charge. To schedule a pickup, call Republic Services at **714.238.2444**. Please note that there is a bulky item pickup fee for multi-family and commercial properties. If you live in a multi-family property, you should coordinate with your property management to arrange for a pickup date and location to place the item(s) for collection.



## 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

**[OCLandfills.com/hazardous](http://OCLandfills.com/hazardous)**





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## Give Good Food a Second Life

- Practice FIFO (first in, first out): consistently check to make sure that you are rotating food based on expiration dates.
- Sign up for food apps that discount food items such as Too Good to Go and Flash Food.
- Repurpose cosmetically imperfect but safe produce (and other extra food) into fruit bowls, deli items, juices, or prepared meals.
- Order smart: consider what is in season and historical patterns.
- Participate in internal food donation programs –
  - o If you have a business, consider giving extra food to your employees.
  - o If you hosted an event or made extra food at home, bring these goodies to your work for others to enjoy so nothing goes to waste.
  - o Join local Facebook or NextDoor groups to give perfectly good food to others in your local community.

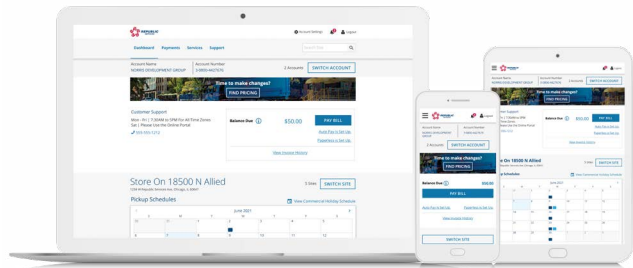
## Holiday Collection Schedule

Republic Services observes Memorial Day, so if your pickup falls on Monday, May 25th, service will be delayed by one day.



## Download the Republic Services App

Republic Services gives you one simple tool to manage your account needs. Visit [RepublicServices.com/account](https://RepublicServices.com/account) to sign up or download the app.



## Contact Us

City of Brea – Recycle Brea (Public Works)  
**714.990.7691**  
**[RecycleBrea@cityofbrea.gov](mailto:RecycleBrea@cityofbrea.gov)**

Republic Services  
**714.238.2444**  
**[OCRecycles@RepublicServices.com](mailto:OCRecycles@RepublicServices.com)**

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## Edible Food Recovery

Reducing food waste while helping address food insecurity is a key focus of California's SB 1383, which requires certain businesses to recover edible food that would otherwise be thrown away. By 2025, the law calls for at least 20 percent of surplus edible food to be recovered and redirected to people in need. Businesses that generate food are expected to donate the maximum amount of edible food possible and establish partnerships with food recovery organizations.

Along with these efforts, SB 1383 also requires businesses to maintain clear and consistent records of their food donation activities for review by designated agencies. Keeping accurate records helps demonstrate compliance and ensures that recovered food is being properly tracked. Businesses should be prepared to maintain the following:

- Copies of contracts or written agreements with each food recovery organization or service
- A list of each food recovery organization or service that collects or receives edible food
- The name, address, and contact information for each food recovery organization or service used
- The types of food donated to each food recovery organization or service
- The established frequency of food donations to each organization or service
- The quantity of food donated to each organization or service, measured in pounds by month, along with supporting documentation

In Brea, local partnerships are helping make this process more accessible. Abound Food Care, a collaboration between nonprofits, public agencies and private businesses, works alongside Republic Services to ensure that surplus food is redirected to those who need it most. Through coordinated efforts, they help food-generating businesses find reliable pathways to donate excess food rather than sending it to landfills, supporting both community health and environmental goals.

In addition to these efforts, Careit provides another simple way for businesses to participate in food recovery. Careit connects food donors directly with local nonprofit organizations, making it easier to schedule and track donations. The platform is free to use and helps ensure that surplus food reaches people in need within the community.

