

City of Fairfield

Recycling, Organics and Waste Services



Why It Is Important to Separate Organics From the Trash

Did you know that by separating your organic materials—like food scraps and yard waste—and placing them in your organics cart (the gray cart with a green lid), you're helping the environment? This small act of waste separation has a big impact! When you use your organic cart, this waste is taken to a compost facility instead of a landfill. Rather than burying this waste, this material is transformed into a nutrient-rich product called compost. Not only does this extend the life of the landfill and generate compost that can be used for agricultural purposes, but composting this organic waste produces significantly fewer greenhouse gases, such as methane. Methane is a climate super-pollutant that is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide and, according to CalRecycle, these greenhouse gases negatively contribute to climate change. The impacts of climate change are wide-reaching but include hotter summers, intense wildfires, and unpredictable weather patterns.

To help with these efforts, Senate Bill (SB) 1383 was signed into law and established methane emissions reduction targets. In addition to requiring California residents and businesses to separate their organic waste from the trash to help meet these targets, SB 1383 also requires certain businesses to donate edible food through a food recovery program. Food recovery means collecting edible food that would otherwise go to waste and redistributing it to feed people in need. This is the highest and best use for food that would otherwise go to waste. SB 1383 requirements have resulted in expanded food recovery networks, and local programs recovered 217,042 tons of food in 2023.

While we have made great progress, we still need your help to continue reducing the amount of organics and recyclables being sent to landfills. By separating your organic waste and using your organics cart correctly, you're playing a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gases, conserving valuable landfill space, and supporting a healthier environment. It will take a little time to see the positive effects of composting our organics, but let's keep working towards a cleaner, greener future!

Compost your organic materials



How to Keep Your Organics Cart Clean

Here are some tips to keep your organics cart clean:

- ✓ Wrap your food waste in newspaper, or place it inside a paper bag.
- ✓ Place your used paper towels and napkins with your food waste. This will help to reduce moisture and odors.
- ✓ You can also keep your food scraps in the freezer and place them in the green waste cart before your collection day.
- ✓ You can use compostable bags, but they must meet Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) standards and show the BPI symbol.



What can **ALWAYS** be placed inside your recycling cart:

Ensure items are empty, clean and dry



PLASTICS

Recycle plastics #1 through #7. Look on the bottom of containers for a number inside the recycling arrows



METAL CANS

Recycle all food and beverage metal cans – steel, tin, bimetal and aluminum



PAPER & CARDBOARD

Envelopes, office paper, newspaper, magazines, junk mail, catalogs, paperback books, phone books, brochures, greeting cards and file folders



GLASS

Recycle clear and colored glass



Do not place in your recycling cart:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ✗ Appliances | ✗ Electronic waste | ✗ Pots or pans |
| ✗ Batteries | ✗ Food waste | ✗ Polystyrene foam |
| ✗ Bubble wrap | ✗ Food wrap | ✗ Sports equipment |
| ✗ Carbon paper | ✗ Garden hoses | ✗ Tires |
| ✗ Ceramics | ✗ Green waste | ✗ Toys |
| ✗ Christmas lights | ✗ Packing paper | ✗ Window glass |
| ✗ Coat hangers | ✗ Pizza boxes | ✗ Wood waste |
| ✗ Diapers | ✗ Plastic bags | |
| ✗ Electrical cords | | |



What can **ALWAYS** be placed inside your organics cart:



YARD DEBRIS

Flowers, grass cuttings, leaves, weeds, small tree and brush trimmings, yard trimmings



FOOD SCRAPS

Fruit, vegetables, bones, coffee grounds, tea bags, dairy products, egg shells, fish, meat, grain products and baked goods



FOOD-SOILED PAPER

Pizza boxes, paper plates, paper towels, paper napkins, paper cups and waxed paper



Do not place in your organics cart:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✗ Aluminum foil | ✗ Hazardous waste | ✗ Oleanders |
| ✗ Bamboo | ✗ Lawn sod | ✗ Recyclable materials |
| ✗ Burn materials/ash | ✗ Liquids | ✗ Rocks |
| ✗ Dead animals | ✗ Manure/pet waste | ✗ Sand |
| ✗ Dirt | ✗ Palm fronds | ✗ Polystyrene foam |
| ✗ Diapers | ✗ Plastic bags | ✗ Wood (coated, treated or painted) |
| ✗ Foil-lined food wrap | ✗ Plastic wrap/straws | |
| ✗ Trash | | |

Compost Giveaway Event

Are you thinking about starting a garden this spring? Fairfield residents are invited to a free compost giveaway event hosted by the City of Fairfield and Republic Services! Please join us at:

Dunnell Nature Park & Education Center
3351 Hillridge Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534
Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(or until supplies run out)

****Proof of residency is required****

This is a self-serve event, so don't forget to bring a container for your compost. Shovels will be provided. Please note, trailers are not allowed. For more details, contact the City of Fairfield Solid Waste Division at **707.428.7528**.



Don't bag it!

Never put recyclables in containers or bags!