

Food Waste Service

As of January 1, 2022, everyone in California is required to recycle their organic materials. Commercial businesses and multi-family customers who only generate food waste (no yard waste), or have their yard waste hauled off site, will need a food waste-only container and collection service. Acceptable materials include fruits and vegetables; cooked meat and bones; food-soiled paper; and cheese, grains and pasta.



Acceptable items*

FRUITS & VEGETABLES



COOKED MEAT & BONES



FOOD-SOILED PAPER



CHEESE, GRAINS & PASTA



* All items can be placed in a clear plastic bag.

Non-acceptable items



RECYCLABLES



FATS, OILS & GREASE



HAZARDOUS WASTE



YARD WASTE



SINGLE-USE PLASTICS



TRASH & PET WASTE

For more information or to start your organics recycling program, please email OCRecycles@RepublicServices.com.



Sustainability in Action



The Law

In 2016, Senate Bill 1383 was signed into law to combat climate change and reduce landfill methane emissions. Methane is a climate super pollutant and is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Organic materials like food scraps, yard trimmings, paper and cardboard currently make up 50% of what Californians dump in landfills. Diverting organic materials from landfills can significantly reduce these local air quality emissions. The goal is to reduce organic materials disposal 75% by 2025.

What Does it Mean?

This law requires your waste hauler to collect your organic materials, including food waste, and process it in a more sustainable manner, instead of simply taking it to a landfill.

What is Food Waste?

Food waste includes vegetable and fruit scraps, spoiled produce, eggshells and meat (anything you eat and any byproduct of your meal) and food-soiled paper (napkins, paper plates, paper containers, pizza boxes and coffee filters).

Who is Affected?

Everyone. Residents, multi-family properties and complexes, businesses, schools and public agencies all need to comply with the law and enroll in an organic materials recycling program.

How is it Handled Differently?

The law requires a significantly higher level of processing of organic material than current standards for regular trash. Processors are required to monitor, track and ultimately limit the amount of organic material sent to the landfills after processing, requiring additional processing and the development of new systems to remove contaminants and excess organic material that may have previously been sent to the landfill as residue. Most organics collected by Republic Services are taken to a compost facility and turned into nutrient-rich soil amendment.

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