

Mt.View Sanitary District

Residential Recycling & Waste Solutions



Sustainability in Action



Back-to-School, Sustainably: Smart Ways to Reduce Waste This Semester

The back-to-school season often means a flurry of shopping and preparation—but it's also a great opportunity to adopt sustainable habits. With a little planning and creativity, families can reduce waste, save money, and teach kids the importance of caring for the planet. Read on for some simple ways to make this school year greener and visit MVSD.org/sustainability for more sustainable resources and activities.

- 1. Plan Ahead:** Before hitting the stores, make a detailed list of needed supplies to avoid impulse buys. Sticking to essentials prevents excess clutter and reduces unnecessary waste.
- 2. Repurpose First:** Raid last year's backpack, desk, and pencil case before buying new items. Gently used notebooks, binders, and art supplies often get a second life with a little creativity.
- 3. Choose Recycled:** When shopping is unavoidable, look for supplies made from recycled materials, like paper, pencils, or binders.
- 4. Ditch Single-Use:** Pack drinks in a reusable water bottle or thermos instead of disposable juice boxes. If milk cartons or other recyclables are used, rinse and recycle them properly.
- 5. Pack Waste-Free Lunches:** Use reusable containers, cloth napkins, and stainless steel utensils for packed lunches. A durable lunchbox eliminates the need for disposable bags.
- 6. Start or Join a School Recycling Program:** Team up with teachers or administrators to launch a recycling initiative if your school doesn't have one. Student involvement fosters long-term eco-awareness.
- 7. Recycle Right:** Always empty, clean, and dry recyclables like yogurt cups or juice bottles before tossing them in the bin. Contaminated items can disrupt the recycling process.



Time for Lid Flippin'!

SB 1383 requires local jurisdictions to monitor contamination and proper sorting of organics and recycling by performing route audits and contamination checks. Republic Services employees may be in your neighborhood throughout the year performing "lid-flips" and looking into all 3 of your carts—landfill, recycle and organics—for proper sorting. They may leave an educational "OOPS" tag if something should have gone into a different cart; if you receive an "OOPS" tag for contamination, you will be contacted to discuss how your sorting could be improved.

If you see an auditor in your neighborhood, feel free to say hello and ask any questions about what goes where, where you can take hard to recycle items, and any suggestions to make sorting easier and cleaner!



Here are a few things to know about the audit process:

- No bags are opened.
- No contents are touched.
- Educational tags ("OOPS" tags) may be attached to cart(s).

Here are a few reminders to help with proper sorting:

- **DO NOT BAG recyclables.** If you collect your recycling in bags, please empty the contents into your RECYCLE cart and place the bag in the GARBAGE cart.
- Styrofoam, plastic strapping, disposable gloves, and all plastic utensils (even those labeled compostable) are trash and should be disposed of in the GARBAGE cart.
- **No e-waste in any cart.** Call customer service at 925.685.4711 to schedule a pickup.

Landfill



Recycle



Empty, Clean, and Dry

Compost



BAGS: Compostable BPI (meets ASTM 6400 Standard) or Paper Bags; No Plastic Bags

- No Food
- No Paper
- No Green Waste
- No Recyclable Material
- No Hazardous Waste



- No Liquids
- No Textile
- No Carpet
- No Food
- No Green Waste
- No Hazardous Waste

Recyclables should be loose or in a clear bag only. Place household batteries and CFL's in baggies on top of recycle cart. Recycle motor oil in clear plastic containers with lid secured and drain oil filters and put in plastic bag, curbside.



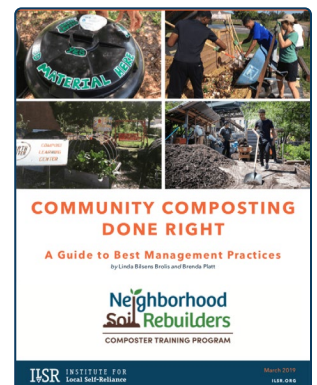
- No Metal
- No Glass
- No Plastic
- No Hazardous Waste
- No Compostable Utensils Or Cups
- No Pet Waste

Organics should be loose or in compostable or paper bags only. No plastic bags. A second green cart is available for an additional fee. Call Customer Service, 925.685.4711, to request one.



Interested in Community Composting? Check Out This Guide!

If you are interested in expanding composting, a community-scale composting program is a terrific way to increase local resilience, build sustainability awareness, and provide quality soil amendments for local use. Food scraps and yard trimmings can easily be turned into beneficial compost for your community garden or local urban farm. It has the potential to reduce waste generation while benefiting the earth by returning nutrients to the soil. Your program can also engage and enhance your community or a local school with a fun educational experience. There are many aspects to a sustainable community-scale composting program. For more information on how to start a program, check out *Community Composting Done Right: A Guide to Best Management Practices* by The Institute for Local Self Reliance (ilsr.org/articles/composting-bmp-guide).



Call customer service
to schedule a pickup.
925.685.4711



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