

# Pleasant Hill

Residential Recycling & Waste Solutions



Sustainability in Action



## Sustainable Summer: Your Low-Waste Playbook for the Season

Summer brings longer days, outdoor adventures, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the season—but it also generates more waste. From single-use picnic supplies to travel-related emissions, our seasonal habits can take a toll on the planet. The good news? With a few thoughtful changes, we can reduce our impact while still making the most of summer's best moments.

### Reduce Waste During Summer Activities

Summer outings don't have to mean overflowing trash bins. Pack reusable essentials like water bottles, utensils, and food containers to avoid single-use plastics during beach trips or hikes. Choose snacks with minimal packaging, or better yet, prepare homemade treats to cut down on waste entirely. When hitting the water, consider using reef-safe sunscreen to protect fragile marine ecosystems.

### Travel Smart and Sustainably

With a few conscious choices, your summer adventures can leave lighter footprints. Consider trains or buses over flights for shorter trips, and if driving is necessary, carpool or rent a hybrid/electric vehicle to reduce emissions. Seek out local businesses and eco-conscious accommodations to support sustainable tourism wherever you roam.

### Host Green Gatherings

Backyard BBQs and picnics can easily become greener. Use real plates, cups, and cloth napkins instead of single-use plastic, and set up clearly marked bins to separate trash, recycling, and organic waste. Encourage guests to bring their own containers for leftovers.

## CELEBRATING PLASTIC-FREE JULY 2025

Plastic Free July is a global movement that empowers millions of people to reduce single-use plastics throughout July and beyond, with ideas and resources for reducing plastic waste every day and everywhere—at home, work, school, or even your local cafe. You can participate with simple actions such as swapping plastic water bottles for reusable ones, bringing your own shopping bags, and choosing unpackaged produce at supermarkets. Visit [PlasticFreeJuly.org](https://PlasticFreeJuly.org) to learn more about this month-long celebration and even more ways to help create a plastic free world.



## Landfill



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



## Recycle



Empty, Clean, and Dry

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

Recyclables should be loose (no bags) or placed in a clear bag only. A second recycle cart is available at no charge. Call Customer Service 925.685.4711 to request one.



## Compost



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

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

Organics should be loose (no bags) or in compostable or paper bags only. No plastic bags. A second green cart is available for no charge. Call Customer Service 925.685.4711 to request one.



## Compostable Plastic? Not So Fantastic!

Compostable plastics go in the landfill cart.



Compostable plastic sounds like a great idea, but the reality is a bit different. Despite its green credentials, composting facilities nationwide aren't quite equipped to handle it just yet. The only compostable plastics accepted in your green organics cart are BPI-Certified Compostable Bags (that meet ASTM 6400 Standard) that may be used to hold food scraps.

Take those green stripe cups and corn-based utensils, for example. While they're designed to biodegrade, they don't break down fast enough within the typical 45-day composting cycle. This means they end up in landfills, where they sadly won't decompose properly due to the lack of air, moisture, and sunlight.



So what can we use instead? Here are some eco-friendly alternatives:

- Reusable utensils, plates, and cups
- Bamboo and palm leaf products
- Uncoated paper goods
- Aluminum foil for wrapping food
- Repurposed food or take-out containers for sending home leftovers

Next time you dine out, consider bringing your own container for leftovers or letting your favorite takeout spot know you'll bring a reusable container. Every small step helps make a big difference!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Customer Service: 925.685.4711  
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