

# Fullerton Recycling & Waste Annual Newsletter



**REPUBLIC**  
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

2024-2025

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

## Cart Placement



Place carts out the night before or by 4 a.m. on your collection day. All three carts are emptied on the same day but not by the same truck. Carts may be serviced at different times throughout the day.

### Cart Placement Tips

- Place carts either in the street gutter, against the curb, in front of premises or adjacent to premises in the alley or easement in the rear of premises.
- Place carts prior to 4 a.m. on your regular collection day.
- Place carts with the lid openings facing toward the street.
- Place carts in a visible location at least 3 feet apart and 5 feet away

from mailboxes, trees, basketball hoops, cars or other stationary objects.

### Why wasn't my cart serviced?

These are some of the reasons why yard waste, recycling or trash may not be collected:

- Cart inaccessible
- Overfilled or overweight cart
- Insufficient space to service cart, such as car blocking cart
- Unacceptable contamination or hazardous waste found in cart
- Yard waste, recycling or trash placed in the incorrect cart
- Cart lid not closed flat
- Items placed outside the cart, either on the lid or on the ground

## Tips for Curbside Collection



### Do

- Close the lids on all your carts.
- Bag waste that will be placed into your trash cart.
- Toss only LOOSE recyclables into the recycling cart.

## Join Us for the Compost Giveaway

The City of Fullerton and Republic Services will be giving away compost for free on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. (or until compost runs out) at Independence Park, 801 W. Valencia Dr. Please bring your own containers or buckets for Republic Services staff to fill with compost. This event will be held rain or shine but may be postponed for other reasons. For updates, visit [RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca](https://RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca).

To receive free compost at this event, residents must provide proof of



Credit: Cat Chat | iStock | Getty Images Plus

residency (California driver's license or utility bill). There will be a limit of 60 gallons of compost per household.

For more information, contact Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.

## Chasing Arrows Doesn't Always Mean "Accepted for Recycling"

We all recognize the three chasing arrows that create the recycling symbol. But do you know what the numbers inside those arrows on plastic products mean? Just because that symbol is on an item doesn't mean you can recycle it. California Senate Bill (SB) 343 attempts to clear up this miscommunication by prohibiting the recycling symbol on products that you cannot recycle easily in most California communities. However, truth in labeling, which goes into effect on July 1, 2025, is just the first step. Another bill, SB 54, sets goals for reducing single-use plastic foodware and packaging, recycling more of the remaining items, and manufacturing with recyclable and/or compostable materials by 2032.

In Fullerton, we do not accept any item marked with "PS" (which stands for "polystyrene," a type of plastic). We also don't accept plastic food containers and similar carryout food boxes. Why? These containers flatten during collection and processing and, as a result, end up as contaminants in bales of plastic, bottles or paper. To learn more ways to reduce contamination, visit [RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca](https://RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca).

- Place only recyclables into the recycling cart. If you aren't sure what is recyclable, visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](https://RecyclingSimplified.com).
- Break down and flatten boxes before recycling. If needed, cut cardboard into pieces no larger than about 18 by 18 inches.
- Empty food and beverage containers. Wipe or rinse out food residue as needed. Allow containers to dry before putting them into the recycling cart.

### Don't

- Don't leave the cart lids open.
- Don't place bagged waste on top of your trash cart.
- Don't bag your recycling.
- Don't overfill carts. Save extra materials to be placed into carts the following week.
- Don't put any of these items into your recycling cart: plastic bags; food; takeout coffee cups; clothing and textiles; hoses and cords; tissues, napkins and paper towels; household batteries; or paint.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GREENFIELD, IN  
PERMIT NO. 220

Republic Services  
1131 N. Blue Gum Street  
Anaheim, CA 92806





## What Is SB 1383?

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a California 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 businesses and local governments divert this waste from landfills through composting and other sustainable practices. The law also establishes a goal of reducing the volume of organic waste disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025.

## What You Need to Do Now

New organics recycling programs are rolling out across the state of California. Every city is developing a unique food waste and yard waste recycling program. In Fullerton, more information will be provided for residents soon. In the meantime, please follow these guidelines:

### Residents

- Recycle all clean, dry paper in your recycling cart or dumpster. This includes cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, office paper, school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags and wrapping paper with no metal. Also, recycle metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs and containers in the same cart.
- Reduce landscape debris by letting grass clippings drop back onto the lawn as you mow and composting in your backyard. In addition to landscape trimmings and leaves, you can also compost fruit and vegetable scraps. Compost helps create healthier soil that uses water more efficiently, leading to beautiful and productive gardens.
- Use your yard waste cart for limbs, branches, leaves, grass clippings, weeds, other plant material and small scrap wood (no painted or treated wood). Branches and wood must be no more than 4 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet in length. Palm fronds, cacti and other succulents, rocks, soil, pet waste, recyclables and trash are not accepted in the yard waste cart.
- Currently, new residential customers or those requesting cart exchanges are receiving SB 1383-compliant carts with the required colors and labels.
- Watch for details about citywide expanded organics collections for food scraps and food-soiled paper soon. Updates will be posted on the City of Fullerton and Republic Services websites.

### Businesses

- Recycle clean, dry paper and cardboard in your recycling dumpster or cart. Under Assembly Bill (AB) 341, many businesses and multi-family properties are already required to recycle paper, along with plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans.
- SB 1383 also establishes a goal of increasing edible food recovery from businesses by 20% by 2025. Depending on the size of your business, you may be required to participate in a food recovery and donation program for edible food. Donate excess food to food pantries or other food rescue organizations.
- Contact Republic Services to ensure you have properly sized carts or dumpsters and the correct type and frequency of collection services in place to meet the requirements of AB 341, SB 1383 and other state laws.

## Donation Over Disposal



In a world where consumerism often reigns supreme, the question of what to do with our possessions when they're no longer of use frequently arises. The knee-jerk reaction for many is to simply toss them away, relegating them to the fate of a landfill. However, a more conscientious approach lies in donating these items.

What might be clutter to us could be a valuable resource to someone else. Clothes, furniture, books and other household items can find new life in the hands of those who can't afford to buy them brand-new. Donating allows us to contribute to our communities and support those who are less fortunate.

Fortunately, there are several ways to begin. One option is to donate to local charities or non-profit organizations. There are many thrift stores and donation centers where you can drop off your gently used items. These organizations often support various causes, such as homelessness, education or healthcare.

Another possibility is to donate online. Several websites and apps facilitate the donation process by connecting donors with individuals or organizations in need. Whether it's clothing, electronics or household goods, there's likely a platform where you can find someone who could benefit from your donations.

Locally, there are convenient options for donating and recycling items. For example, the H&M Garment Collecting Program allows you to drop off unwanted clothes at their stores, including locations at Westfield Main Place in Santa Ana and The Outlets in Orange. These programs make it easy to ensure your items are reused or recycled responsibly.

## Medication Disposal

Unused or expired medication left in your home can lead to accidental poisoning or allow access for misuse of the medication. Many local drugstores accept medication for proper disposal. You can quickly search online for "medication disposal near me" to locate permanent disposal locations nearby. For more details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal).



## Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with state law, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual contamination monitoring reviews. Representatives, in clearly identified safety vests, will be in the community reviewing the contents of yard waste, recycling and trash carts and dumpsters. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the cart or dumpster identifying the incorrect items. Please note that these reviews are mandated by state law and will occur on an annual basis. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.





# Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

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, sharps 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 the county's four HHW Collection Centers. 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**

# 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 cart. 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!



Credit: StefaNikolic | E+ | Getty Images



# Bulk Item Pickup

Furniture and old appliances are among the most common items illegally dumped along roadways, in parks and on vacant lots. There is no need to dump these items improperly. The City of Fullerton and Republic Services provide residents with convenient pickup by appointment for bulk items and electronics. To schedule this service, simply call Republic Services Customer Service at **800.700.8610** at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to request a bulk item pickup. Once you have made the call, a truck will be scheduled to collect your bulk items on your next regular collection day.


When you do spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the City of Fullerton. If you see someone dumping illegally, do not confront them. If possible, discreetly take a photo of the activity. Write down a description of the person, as well as the vehicle make, color and license plate number. Call the Police Department's nonemergency number to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our city looking good for residents and visitors.

## BATTERY BEWARE


### TAKE CHARGE. STAY SAFE.

#### DON'T Recycle or Trash Lithium Batteries at Home

Lithium batteries are extremely popular because they are reliable and long-lasting. These types of batteries are found in a wide range of devices, including cell phones, power tools, laptops, tablets, children's toys, scooters, electric toothbrushes and more.

**PREVENT FIRES**

Lithium and lithium-ion batteries, which are made from highly flammable materials, can pose a serious fire risk.<sup>1</sup> If overheated, punctured or faulty, these batteries can cause fires or explode.

**PROTECT PEOPLE**

Lithium battery fires are incredibly difficult to extinguish and may reignite days later. When batteries fail, they can release toxic gases that endanger individuals in their homes and workplaces.

- DO'S & DON'TS**
- DON'T**

Overcharge lithium batteries or leave them plugged in overnight.
- DON'T**

Throw away lithium batteries in the trash.
- DON'T**

Try to recycle lithium batteries at home.
- DO**

Store batteries between 40°F and 80°F.
- DO**

Cover battery terminals with electrical tape and/or place them in separate plastic bags when disposing.
- DO**

Dispose of lithium-ion batteries at designated recycling or household hazardous waste collection centers.



**LEARN MORE AT:**  
**RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries**

1. [https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/si/lithium\\_fire\\_prevention\\_si093.pdf](https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/si/lithium_fire_prevention_si093.pdf)

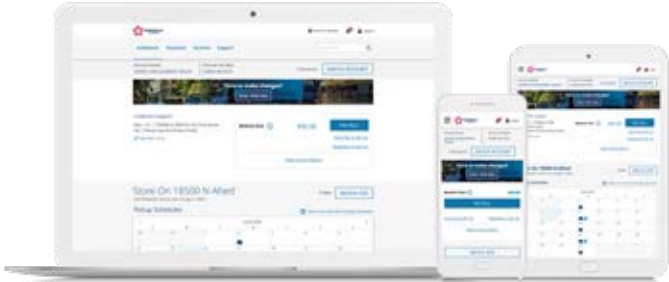


Sustainability in Action



# Download the Republic Services App

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



## Holiday Collection Schedule

We observe the following holidays:

- Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2024
- New Year’s Day – Wednesday, January 1, 2025
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, 2025
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4, 2025
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1, 2025
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27, 2025
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 2025

After the holiday, service will be delayed for one day for the remainder of the week.

# Recycle Your Holiday Tree



Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services for three weeks beginning Thursday, December 26, 2024. Be sure to take off all lights, ornaments, tinsel and garlands, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb next to your carts. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection.

If you take down your tree later in January, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your yard waste cart or dumpster with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your yard waste cart or dumpster. The wreaths and greenery must also be bare, so please remove all wires, hooks, bows and other decorations. Collected trees and greenery are turned into mulch, compost and ground cover.

If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you are discarding an artificial tree or wreath or a flocked tree, please place it into the trash cart or dumpster, or schedule a bulk item pickup. Artificial trees and wreaths and flocked trees are not recyclable.



## California Recycling Laws for Businesses

**Recyclables:** Assembly Bill (AB) 341 makes recycling mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of waste per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.

**Organics:** Under AB 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Organics include both food scraps and yard debris. Organics recycling is now mandatory for businesses that generate 2 or more cubic yards of solid waste (recyclables, trash and organics) per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.

**Customer Recycling:** Under AB 827, limited-service restaurants in California must now provide customers with visible, clearly marked and easily accessible containers for recyclables and organics adjacent to trash bins. Full-service restaurants need to provide separate bins for use by employees.

**For Assistance:** You can learn more about these requirements at [CalRecycle.ca.gov/recycle](https://CalRecycle.ca.gov/recycle). If you have questions about your business or multi-family recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.

### Contact Us

- Trash Collection Service**  
**800.700.8610**
- Household Hazardous Waste**  
**714.834.6752**
- Public Disposal Center**  
**800.700.8610**
- Billing**  
**714.738.6890**



[RepublicServices.com/  
municipality/fullerton-ca](https://RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca)

## Love Fullerton

In 2014, inspired by the Love Our City organization in Modesto, Fullerton residents embraced the idea of a city-wide volunteer day, creating Love Fullerton to empower local volunteers to spread kindness, meet needs, and make a positive impact. Now gearing up for its 12th annual event, Love Fullerton continues this tradition with the next city-wide volunteer day scheduled for April 19, 2025. Volunteers of all ages will have the chance to come together and make a difference in our city through various projects. As the event date approaches, be sure to visit [LoveFullerton.org](https://LoveFullerton.org) for updates and to sign up for a project that sparks your interest. Don't miss this opportunity to show your love for Fullerton!