

# Garden Grove Recycling & Waste Newsletter



**REPUBLIC**  
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

SUMMER 2025

RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA | 800.700.8610

## Organics Recycling Reminders

California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383 was created to help fight climate change by reducing short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane. One of the main goals of the law is to divert organic waste, including food scraps and yard trimmings, away from landfills and into composting and other environmentally friendly processes. SB 1383 was enacted in 2016 and requires a 75 percent reduction in organic waste disposal statewide by 2025. Organic waste includes all food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste.

To help meet this goal, both residents and businesses in Garden Grove are required to sort organic materials properly. Here's what you need to know:

### For Residents:

- If you have curbside cart service through Republic Services, place food scraps and food-soiled paper in your organics cart along with yard trimmings.
- Do not use plastic bags for food scraps. Instead, use paper bags or wrap items in newspaper.
- Keep trash and organics cart lids closed to prevent rodents, cats,



- possums, raccoons, and insects from going through the contents.
- If you live in a multi-family property, place food scraps in the green or brown-lidded organics cart or dumpster on your property.
- If your complex does not have food waste collection containers, contact your property manager or call Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.
- Use a kitchen pail or small container to collect food scraps and transfer them to your outdoor bin.
- Over time, all carts will be replaced to meet California's standardized color system. Residential cart updates will be completed by the end of 2027. Your collection day will not change.

### For Businesses:

- All commercial properties must have recycling and organics programs in place.
- Republic Services offers free technical support to help you comply. Call **714.238.3300** to speak with a Sustainability Advisor who can help tailor service levels to your needs.

To comply with state law, Republic Services staff will conduct annual contamination monitoring. Uniformed representatives will check the contents of carts and dumpsters. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the container to identify the issue. Residents are allowed three free contamination notices before a fee may be assessed. Commercial properties receive one free notice. These reviews are required by law and will occur each year.

For updates and more information about organics recycling in Garden Grove, please visit [GGcity.org/organics](https://GGcity.org/organics) or [RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA](https://RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA). Thank you for supporting a cleaner, more sustainable community.

## Edible Food Recovery



In an effort to tackle food waste and address food insecurity, California's SB 1383 law mandates that certain businesses recover or rescue 20% of surplus edible food by 2025. This law is designed to divert food waste from landfills and redirect it to those in need in our communities.

Under SB 1383, food-generating businesses must:

- Recover the maximum amount of surplus edible food.
- Establish agreements with food recovery organizations or services.
- Maintain records of donation activities.
- Comply based on Tier 1 or Tier 2 classification, which includes grocery stores, wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers, and some restaurants, cafeterias, and venues.

Locally, Abound Food Care (formerly known as Waste Not OC), a partnership of nonprofits, public agencies, and private businesses, is working with Republic Services and the Garden Grove Sanitary District to ensure that surplus food feeds hungry people in our community. Abound Food Care provides system-wide solutions to help food generators channel excess edible food to communities rather than landfills. By reducing food insecurity and food waste, we are improving the health of our communities and the environment. Visit [Aboundfoodcare.org](https://Aboundfoodcare.org) to learn more.

If you receive a notice, it's important to respond and work toward resolving the issue by starting or adjusting service. Taking prompt action helps avoid potential citations and supports our community's sustainability goals.

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# Free Community Cleanup Days

The City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Sanitary District, in partnership with Republic Services, host a series of community cleanup days throughout the city to help residents properly dispose of unwanted items. These free, self-service events accept furniture, large bulky items, non-refrigerant appliances, scrap metal, electronic waste, household batteries, paper for shredding, tree limbs (cut to 4-foot lengths), brush, leaves, and lawn clippings.

These are self-service events, so residents need to be prepared to unload their own items from their vehicles. The locations change for every event to make these events convenient for all residents. All cleanups run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- **Saturday, September 13** – H. Louis Lake Senior Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.
- **Saturday, November 8** – Public Works, 13802 Newhope St.

Events will NOT accept hazardous waste (such as paints, oils, chemicals, pesticides, batteries, or LED lights); construction and demolition materials (such as concrete, dirt, rocks, brick, asphalt, sand, or treated/painted wood); tires; large appliances (such as refrigerators, freezers, and AC units); and palm fronds. For a full list of unacceptable items, visit [GGcity.org/cleanup-days](http://GGcity.org/cleanup-days).

Dates and locations may be subject to change. Check the City website and social media platforms for updates, or call **714.741.5344** for more information.

# Recycle Your Plastic Bags

When mixed with other recyclables plastic bags tangle with equipment or other materials at the sorting facility, causing damage and delays. Even worse, they don't get recycled this way. Instead, recycle empty, clean plastic bags, like shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, and the plastic wrap from cases of water bottles, at designated take-back bins located in many local retail stores. To find a participating store near you, visit [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org).



Credit: Mukhina1 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

# Recycling Access for Customers and Employees in Food Service

Under Assembly Bill 827, limited-service restaurants in California must provide customers with visible, clearly marked and easily accessible containers for recyclables and organics (uneaten food scraps, soiled paper, and similar items) adjacent to trash bins. Full-service restaurants must provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption. You can download container and cabinet labels from [RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources](http://RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources).



If you have questions about business recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at **714.238.3300**.

# What Goes in Your Recycling Cart?

Contamination in recycling negatively impacts our environment and efforts toward sustainability. When non-recyclable items end up in the recycling bin, they contaminate the entire batch of recyclables. This can render entire loads unsuitable for recycling, forcing them to be sent to landfills instead. Not only does this waste valuable resources, but it also undermines the efforts put into recycling and contributes to landfill volume.



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Recycling right starts with knowing what belongs in your recycling cart or dumpster. Clean, dry paper and flattened cardboard are always accepted, along with metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs, and containers. Keeping these materials free of food, moisture, and residue helps ensure they can be processed properly.

One of the easiest ways to reduce contamination is by labeling your bins at home. A simple label with pictures or text showing what goes where can help everyone in your household or building recycle correctly. It's also important to empty and rinse containers before recycling them. Leftover liquids or food can ruin otherwise recyclable materials, especially paper. Let containers air dry when possible to keep the load clean.

All recyclables should go in loose. Plastic bags jam up machinery at the sorting facility and often lead to everything inside being thrown away. And when placing items in your outdoor cart or dumpster, make sure the lid is fully closed. This helps keep out rain, which can damage recyclables, and prevents animals from digging through your waste.

Certain items should never go in the recycling bin. These include hoses, cords, batteries, chemicals, and medical sharps. These are dangerous to workers and can cause equipment breakdowns. Contaminated items like greasy pizza boxes, food-soiled containers, and used diapers should also be kept out of the recycling. Grease and waste from just one item can spoil an entire load.

New trash and recycling rates go into effect on July 1, 2025. You can view the updated rates at [GGcity.org/pw/trash-recycling](http://GGcity.org/pw/trash-recycling). For more tips on how to recycle smarter, visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](http://RecyclingSimplified.com).

# Free Bulk Item Pickup

## Residents

Republic Services provides a free bulky item collection program. Each residential account is entitled to three bulky item collections per year and up to 10 items per pickup. Contact Republic Services at **714.238.3300** to reserve a bulky item collection date. Be ready to provide a detailed description of the items. Bulky items include large, hard to handle items, such as furniture, appliances, computers, computer monitors, electronic waste, and extra yard waste.



## Multi-Family

Republic Services provides a free bulky item collection program to multi-family complexes. Each multi-family dwelling unit located in the city is entitled to three bulky item collections per year and up to 10 items per pickup. Have your property owner or manager contact Republic Services at **714.238.3300** to reserve a free bulky item collection date. Bulky items include large, hard to handle items, such as furniture, appliances, computers, computer monitors, electronic waste, and extra yard waste.

## Commercial

Bulky items include large, hard to handle items, such as furniture, appliances, computers, printers, computer monitors, electronic waste, and extra-large yard waste. Republic Services provides bulky item collection to commercial businesses for a fee per collection. Commercial businesses should contact Republic Services at **714.238.3300** to reserve a bulky item collection date and confirm pricing.



# Foods of Garden Grove Live Returns This Fall



Following the success of its inaugural year, the City of Garden Grove is thrilled to present the 2nd annual Foods of Garden Grove Live, a tasting and entertainment event. Mark your calendars for Friday, September 26, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Village Green Park, 12732 Main Street in Downtown Garden Grove.

This celebration of global flavors will feature some of the city’s most beloved eateries, including Phin Smith, Urthly Vegan Market, Sabroso! Mexican Grill, Loving Hut, Smoke Queen BBQ, Los Sanchez, Barrio, Apollo Burgers, Carolina’s Italian Restaurant, Nova Kitchen and Bar, Azteca Restaurant and Lounge, and Garlic and Chives. The evening also includes an expanded family-friendly activity zone, an interactive Art in the Dark experience, and live music at the nearby Garden Amp, all set in the heart of Historic Main Street.

Admission to Foods of Garden Grove Live and the concert is free, with tasting tickets available for purchase. For updates on participating restaurants, concert performers, activities, and food ticket pricing, visit [ggcity.org/fogglive](http://ggcity.org/fogglive).

The event is part of the City’s larger Foods of Garden Grove initiative, which highlights over 100 international food and drink destinations across Garden Grove. The initiative offers residents and visitors a flavorful journey through the city’s rich culinary landscape. Learn more at [ggcity.org/fogg](http://ggcity.org/fogg) or call Community Services at **714.741.5200**.

# Break Down Those Boxes

Please break down and flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes. Breaking down boxes saves room and prevents materials from getting stuck in your recycling cart or dumpster. It also 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. Flattening boxes also helps reduce overage charges by maximizing space in your cart or bin. Thank you for your help!



# Cutting Food Waste Starts at Home



Wasting food may seem like a small issue from one household to the next, but across the country it adds up in ways that are hard to ignore. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently updated its estimate on the cost of food waste, finding that each American throws away about \$728 worth of edible food every year. For a family of four, that loss grows to nearly \$2,913 annually. And it is not just money going to waste. It is also the energy, water, labor, and transportation invested in getting that food from the farm to your kitchen.

While fresh produce and grain products are commonly wasted by weight, it is actually meat, seafood, and dairy that create the biggest financial loss when discarded. These items often have shorter shelf lives and higher prices, so when they spoil or get overlooked in the fridge the cost is especially steep. What may look like a forgotten cut of steak or expired yogurt quietly represents a meaningful chunk of a household’s food budget.

Even with best intentions, food waste often happens because of overbuying, poor storage, confusion about labels, or a lack of planning. Once food is thrown away, it often ends up in landfills where it produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. That makes food waste not just a matter of dollars but also an environmental concern. In fact, food is the single largest category of material found in municipal landfills in the United States.

Reducing food waste at home does not require a major lifestyle change. Awareness is the first step. By shopping more thoughtfully, preparing meals based on what is already in the kitchen, and understanding that “sell by” and “best by” dates do not always mean unsafe, families can cut back on waste and stretch their food dollars further. Preventing food waste is not only a smart financial decision. It also supports a more sustainable future by easing pressure on natural resources and reducing unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions.

A blue Republic Services garbage truck is shown from a side profile. It has the company logo and name on its side. The truck is parked on a light blue background.

## Holiday Collection Schedule

- Labor Day – Monday, September 1, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- New Year’s Day – Thursday, January 1, 2026 (service delayed one day)



