

# Villa Park Recycling & Waste Newsletter



**REPUBLIC**  
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

SUMMER 2025

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

## What SB 1383 Means for You

### ORGANICS

#### Acceptable Items



\*You can place food in a paper bag.

#### Unacceptable Items



California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383, passed in 2016, was designed to fight climate change by cutting down on short-lived climate pollutants like methane, a powerful greenhouse gas released by decomposing organic waste in landfills. The law sets a goal to reduce the amount of organic waste sent to and disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025.

Organic waste includes everything from leftover cooked meat, fish, poultry and bones, to fruits, vegetables, bread, rice, pasta and grains. It also covers food-soiled paper products like napkins, wet paper towels and coffee filters, as well as yard debris such as grass clippings, leaves, small branches and garden waste. It's important to note that animal feces and deceased rodents are not organic waste and should be placed in the tan trash cart, not the organics recycling cart.

Food scraps and food-soiled paper should go directly into the brown cart with yard waste, without being bagged in plastic. Paper bags or newspaper can be used to contain scraps and absorb liquids. To keep the brown cart clean and reduce odors, residents can layer food scraps between dry materials like leaves or cardboard, or sprinkle baking soda in the bottom of the cart.

Each business should now have a cart or dumpster to recycle organic materials. If your business or

commercial property does not yet have an organics recycling cart or dumpster, please contact Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.

Republic Services will be conducting cart and dumpster inspections throughout the year to ensure proper sorting and disposal of materials. You may see uniformed Republic Services staff reviewing the contents of your recycling, organics and trash

containers. If an improper item is found, a courtesy tag will be placed on the cart notifying you of the incorrect item. These educational reviews are mandated by SB 1383 and will occur on an annual basis. If you have questions on how to properly dispose of any materials, please call Republic Services at **714.238.3300**.

## Keep Your Recyclables Loose

Please make sure the lids on all your carts are closed before setting them out for collection. Any trash should be bagged before placing it into your trash cart, while recycling should always go in loose and unbagged. If you're unsure whether something is recyclable, **RecyclingSimplified.com** has helpful guidance. When it comes to food waste, you can place loose scraps or food-soiled paper into your brown organics cart, either as they are or wrapped in paper. Cardboard boxes should be broken down and flattened before recycling. Food and beverage containers should be emptied and rinsed or wiped if necessary, then allowed to dry before going into the recycling cart. For additional details about curbside collection, visit **RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca**.

Avoid placing bagged trash on top of the cart, as it needs to fit completely inside with the lid closed. Recycling should never be bagged, and food scraps should not be placed in plastic bags. If needed, paper bags or newspaper can be used to wrap food waste. Try not to overfill your carts. If you have extra material, hold onto it until the next collection day. Some things should never go in your recycling cart, including plastic bags, leftover food, takeout coffee cups, clothing, textiles, hoses, cords, tissues, napkins, paper towels, household batteries and paint.



Credit: PeopleImages | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Villa Park Spring Compost Giveaway Recap

Thank you to all the Villa Park residents who participated in the Spring Compost Giveaway Event on April 19, 2025! A total of 40 yards of bagged compost were successfully distributed to residents during the event. We appreciate your commitment to sustainability and look forward to seeing you at the next giveaway. Please check **Villapark.org** or call City Hall at **714.998.1500** for more details.



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

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



# Picnic Without Plastic This Summer



With the warmer weather, many families and friends head outdoors to enjoy picnics in parks, backyards and on beaches. While summer gatherings are a time to relax and connect, they can also lead to a surprising amount of waste, especially from single-use plastics. From utensils and straws to food containers and plastic wrap, the convenience of disposable items often comes at the cost of long-term environmental harm. Fortunately, with just a bit of planning, it's easy to enjoy a picnic that's both fun and friendly to the environment.

Start by thinking about what you really need. Reusable picnicware like lightweight dishes, cups and silverware can be packed ahead of time and used again for future outings. Cloth napkins and washable food containers help cut down on trash and reduce your reliance on plastic wrap and bags. Many people already have these items at home, and simply bringing them along can make a big difference.

Food and drink choices matter too. Buying in bulk and packing snacks or meals into reusable containers helps eliminate excess packaging. Instead of bottled water or juice boxes, refillable bottles keep drinks cold and waste low. Even simple changes, like skipping the pre-packaged fruit and slicing your own at home, reduce plastic waste without adding much effort.

If your picnic includes grilling or takeout, consider bringing your own reusable takeout kit. This could include containers, a few serving tools and a small cooler to carry leftovers back home. Leftovers packed this way tend to stay fresher and are less likely to be forgotten or wasted.

A plastic-free picnic doesn't mean giving up convenience or enjoyment. With a few small changes, you can celebrate the season with less waste and more intention.

## 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)

# 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!



## RECYCLING

### Acceptable Items (Empty, Clean and Dry)

Paper & Cardboard

Metal Cans

Plastic & Glass

### Unacceptable Items

Dishes & Mirrors

Garden Hoses

Toys

Carpet & Rugs

Tires & Auto Parts

Hazardous Waste

Yard & Food Waste

Furniture & Appliances

Diapers & Pet Waste

Construction Waste

Clothing & Bedding

Plastic Bags & Styrofoam

# Fun Crafts from Everyday Items

Long summer days are perfect for crafts, and you don't need a trip to the store to get started. With a little imagination, everyday items from around the house can be turned into fun projects that help kids stay busy and learn the value of reuse at the same time.

Empty cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls, scrap paper and used gift wrap are all great materials to start with. These items are often tossed out without a second thought, but they can be the base for a homemade puzzle, puppet theater or even a new board game. An old sock can become a puppet with the help of some buttons and glue. A used egg carton can turn into a caterpillar, flower tray or paint palette.

Creating something new from items you already have is a great way to keep materials out of the trash while giving kids a creative outlet. Encourage kids to come up with their own ideas by setting out a small box of clean recyclables and letting them explore what they can build. Add some crayons, glue, tape and scissors and see what they come up with.



BATTERY  
BEWARE

TAKE CHARGE.  
STAY SAFE.

Dangers of Lithium Batteries



## Where Should Your Batteries Go?

Batteries power so much of our daily lives, from phones and laptops to e-bikes, power tools, toys and even backup systems at home. But when not handled correctly, they can pose serious fire risks. This is especially true for lithium-ion batteries, which are common in many rechargeable devices.

Fires linked to these batteries are increasing across the country and even here in Orange County. When old or damaged batteries are thrown into the trash or recycling cart, they can spark fires during collection or at the processing facility. Once compacted or punctured, batteries can ignite quickly and with dangerous force, putting collection crews and equipment at risk.

The best way to prevent battery-related fires is through safe handling and disposal. Avoid overcharging rechargeable batteries, and unplug devices when they are fully charged. Store batteries in a cool, dry place and keep them away from anything that might cause damage.

When it's time to dispose of your batteries, never toss them into your trash or recycling cart. In Villa Park, household batteries, including lithium-ion types, must be taken to a designated Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. These sites safely manage batteries and other items that require special care, such as electronics, paint and motor oil.

Residents can drop off batteries at any of Orange County's four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers for free. Be sure to tape battery terminals or place each battery in a separate plastic bag before drop-off to prevent sparks or short circuits. For hours, locations and details about what's accepted, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous).

## Household Hazardous Waste Is NOT Collected at the Curb



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 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](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous)

## Free Bulk Item Pickup

Furniture, old appliances and electronics 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 Villa Park and Republic Services provide residents with convenient pickups for bulk items and electronics.

By appointment, Republic Services provides pickup for large items at the curb. Residents may request up to three (3) bulk item pickups at no charge during each calendar year. The pickup is limited to ten (10) bulk items each collection day. Items should weigh no more than 50 pounds and be no more than 6 feet long. 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 the following regular collection day or within approximately seven days.



# Mandatory Recycling 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. Under AB 341, businesses and properties must recycle paper, boxes, cans, bottles and containers, as well as recyclable items that are unique to their operations. SB 1383 expands on this requirement, making recycling of clean paper and cardboard mandatory at all businesses and multi-family properties, regardless of size.

**Organics:** Under SB 1383 and AB 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Under these laws, organics include food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings. All businesses and multi-family properties should now be participating in organics recycling programs.

**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 (uneaten food scraps, soiled paper and similar items) adjacent to trash bins. Full-service restaurants need to provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption.

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

# Help Prevent Illegal Dumping



Illegally dumped items are more than just an eyesore; they can pose serious health and safety risks and may negatively impact property values. Taking proactive steps to prevent and clean up illegal dumping helps maintain a cleaner, safer and more attractive community. One simple action you can take is picking up litter when you see it. Clean areas tend to stay clean, so small efforts can go a long way in discouraging further dumping.

Always use the proper carts for organics, recycling and trash to ensure waste is disposed of correctly. If you have large items like furniture or appliances to get rid of, don't place them outside until you've scheduled a bulk item pickup. Leaving bulky items on the curb without arrangement can attract more illegal dumping and create neighborhood clutter.

If you come across an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Report it to the City of Villa Park. Should you witness someone actively dumping illegally, avoid direct confrontation. Instead, if it's safe to do so, discreetly take a photo of the activity, note a description of the person and/or vehicle, and record the license plate number. Report this information to the Orange County Sheriff's Department non-emergency line at **714.647.7000**. You can also help keep your city looking its best by participating in local community cleanup events.

## What Happens to Collected Organics?

Instead of going to landfills, collected organics are now turned into compost, mulch and renewable energy, creating beneficial products and reducing methane emissions. If you'd like to see how this process works, we can help. Republic Services has videos about how residential and commercial organics are processed after collection. Check them out!

- Residential Organics: [Bit.ly/3vW07Ci](https://bit.ly/3vW07Ci)
- Commercial Recycling: [Bit.ly/3ZjbT70](https://bit.ly/3ZjbT70)

## Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with this 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 organics, recycling and trash carts and dumpsters. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the cart or dumpster identifying the incorrect items. Contamination fees will be assessed upon the fourth notification for residents and upon the second notification for commercial properties. 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.

### Contact Us

Collection Service, Billing, Public Disposal Center  
**800.700.8610**

Household Hazardous Waste  
**714.834.6752**

Street Sweeping Citation, Storm Drains, Sewers  
**714.998.1500**

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



## Medication Disposal

Unused or expired medications left in your home can lead to accidental poisoning or allow access for misuse of the medications. Many local drugstores accept medications 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).

