SUMMER 2026: RECYCLING & WASTE NEWSLETTER

City of Villa Park

800.700.8610 | RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca



What do I do with My Organics?

When food and yard waste end up in landfills, they decompose and release methane, a greenhouse gas. In fact, landfills contribute more than 20% of methane emissions. Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a 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 residents, businesses, multi-family properties and local governments divert this waste from landfills through composting and other sustainable practices.

Residents

If you have carts that are collected curbside by Republic Services, food scraps and food-soiled paper go into your organics cart mixed with yard trimmings. If you live in a multi-family complex with dumpsters, food scraps go into the brown organics cart or the organics dumpster at your property. Your property should have food waste collection containers. If your property does not, please contact your property management or Republic Services at **714.238.3300**. Please do not bag food scraps in plastic bags. Place loose food scraps and food-soiled paper into the cart or dumpster. You may use paper bags or newspaper. It is recommended to use a kitchen pail or similar container to take materials from your kitchen to your green or brown containers for collection by Republic Services.

Pest-Proofing Your Organics Cart



When filling your cart, aim to alternate layers of yard waste with food scraps or other organic materials. This helps to prevent any single type of waste from accumulating in one spot, reducing the likelihood of attracting pests. Plus, the layers create a balanced composting environment, leading to faster decomposition and nutrient-rich compost.

Another tip is to freeze your food scraps before placing them in the cart on collection day. Freezing not only helps to control odors, but it also discourages pests from feasting on your kitchen scraps before they make it to the cart. Simply pop your food scraps into a container and toss them in the freezer until it's time for collection. Come collection day, empty the frozen scraps into your organics cart or dumpster.

When it comes to keeping your organics cart clean and pest-free, regular maintenance is key. After each collection, take a few moments to clean out your empty cart. Using an automatic shut-off hand sprayer, give the interior of the cart a thorough rinse, making sure to remove any lingering debris or residue. Dump the excess water onto grass or in a planter and allow the cart to air-dry completely before closing the lid to prevent mold or mildew from forming.

Businesses

Businesses must also have organics recycling programs. If your business or commercial property does not yet have an organics recycling cart or dumpster, please contact Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.

Contamination Monitoring & Inspections

Republic Services and City staff will be conducting cart and dumpster inspections throughout the year to ensure proper sorting and disposal of materials. You may see uniformed 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 items. These educational reviews are mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and will occur on an annual basis.

You may receive additional charges if staff continuously finds improper items in your containers. If you have any questions on how to properly dispose of any materials, please call Republic Services at **714.238.3300**.

Additional Information

For the latest updates regarding organics recycling in Villa Park, please visit **RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca**.

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

Republic Services
12949 E. Telegraph Road
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670



Credit: 1shot Production | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Give Good Food a Second Life

- Practice FIFO (first in, first out): consistently check to make sure that you are rotating food based on expiration dates.
- Sign up for food apps that discount food items such as Too Good to Go and Flash Food.
- Repurpose cosmetically imperfect but safe produce (and other extra food) into fruit bowls, deli items, juices, or prepared meals.
- Order smart: consider what is in season and historical patterns.
- Participate in internal food donation programs –
  - o If you have a business, consider giving extra food to your employees.
  - o If you hosted an event or made extra food at home, bring these goodies to your work for others to enjoy so nothing goes to waste.
  - o Join local Facebook or NextDoor groups to give perfectly good food to others in your local community.

Edible Food Recovery

To reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires that California recover or rescue 20% of surplus edible food to feed people in need by 2025. The law directs food-generating businesses to recover the maximum amount of their edible food that would otherwise go to landfills and to maintain records of their food donation activities. SB 1383 places mandated food donors into two tiers. As of January 1, 2024, large food businesses, such as wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers and grocery stores, as well as cafeterias, restaurants and venues, are required to comply. Many food recovery organizations serve Orange County and are available to partner with businesses that have surplus food. For more details and a list of these organizations, visit **OClandfills.com/environmental-programs/recycling/edible-food-recovery**.



Credit: SolStock | E+ | Getty Images

Required 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**.

Education Requirements for Commercial Properties & Businesses

- Supply and allow access to adequate number, size, and location of containers with sufficient labels or colors for employees, contractors, tenants, and customers, consistent with the City's collection system.
- Annually provide employees, contractors, tenants, and customers a written description of organic waste recovery requirements and proper sorting of materials into their appropriate containers.
- Provide to new tenants, before or within fourteen (14) days of occupation of the premises, a written description of the location of containers, the rules governing their use at each property, and the requirements to source separate materials.



Credit: Dina Ivanova | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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 container. 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: South_agency | E+ | Getty Images

Back-to-School Savings

As the back-to-school season approaches, it's time to gear up for another academic year. However, this doesn't mean you'll have to break the bank. With proper planning and smart choices, you can navigate back-to-school shopping, while saving money and reducing waste.

- Take inventory of what you already have. Many items, like backpacks, binders, and calculators, can be reused from previous years, saving you money and reducing unnecessary purchases.
- Shop secondhand. Thrift stores and online marketplaces are treasure troves for affordable and gently used school supplies. From clothing to textbooks, buying secondhand not only saves money, but it also reduces the demand for new production.
- Invest in durable, high-quality items that will last longer. While they may have a higher upfront cost, they will save you money in the long run by eliminating the need for frequent replacements. Look for products made from sustainable materials, like recycled paper.
- Take advantage of sales and discounts by planning your shopping in advance. Start looking for deals early, and consider bulk-buying essentials, like pencils and notebooks, to save both money and packaging waste.
- Try DIY. Get creative, and make your own school supplies whenever possible. From decorating plain notebooks, to sewing your own pencil case, DIY projects are not only fun, but they are also eco-friendly and budget-friendly.
- Pack a waste-free lunch. Invest in reusable containers, water bottles and utensils to pack your lunch. Not only does this reduce single-use plastic waste, but it also saves money compared to buying pre-packaged meals every day.

Medication Disposal


Credit: smartstock | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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**.

Small Habits Add Up


Credit: Frazao Studio Latino | E+ | Getty Images

Small actions repeated every day can make a big difference for your home and the environment.

- Refill first, buy less. Carry a reusable water bottle and coffee mug to cut down on disposable cups and bottles.
- Recycle right. Only place clean, empty, and dry items in the recycling bin, and know your local guidelines for what is accepted.
- Choose reusable over single-use. Swap disposable bags, utensils, and straws for long-lasting alternatives.
- Buy with care. Select products with minimal packaging or packaging that you know can be recycled locally.
- Repair when possible. Fix clothes, electronics, and household items instead of tossing and replacing them. Each of these simple habits does not require dramatic effort. However, over weeks and months they accumulate into less waste generated.

Household Hazardous Waste Is NOT Collected at the Curb


Credit: Vladimir Mironov | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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



Know What Goes Where

Keeping recycling clean is one of the simplest ways to protect the environment and make local programs more effective. While it may seem like a small detail, contamination has wide reaching impacts. When non recyclable items are placed in recycling carts, they can spoil entire loads of otherwise usable material. Instead of being turned into new products, those materials are often redirected to landfills, which reduces the overall success of recycling efforts and adds pressure to already limited disposal space. Similar issues can occur in organics and trash streams, where placing the wrong materials in any cart can interfere with proper processing and disposal.

Contamination also creates real challenges at recycling and organics facilities. Items that do not belong, especially hazardous materials or sharp objects, can put workers at risk and damage sorting equipment. These disruptions can lead to costly repairs and delays in service, affecting the entire system. Materials like plastic bags, flexible plastic film, candy and chip wrappers, bubble wrap, and Styrofoam should be placed in the trash rather than recycling, since they can tangle machinery and are not accepted in most programs. Animal waste and palm fronds should also go in the trash, as they are not suitable for organics processing.

At home, a few simple habits can make a meaningful difference. Clearly labeling bins helps everyone remember what belongs in each cart and reduces confusion. Recycling should always be placed loose in the cart rather than bagged, which allows it to be sorted properly at the facility. Containers should be empty, clean, and dry before being recycled, with caps placed back on to keep materials together. Keeping food residue off recyclables is especially important, since items like greasy pizza boxes or soiled containers can contaminate otherwise clean materials.

Understanding what belongs in each cart is key to avoiding common mistakes. Clean paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, along with plastic bottles and jugs, are all accepted in most recycling programs when prepared properly. Items that are dirty or contaminated, such as diapers or heavily soiled materials, should be kept out of recycling. In the organics cart, food scraps and food soiled paper like napkins, paper towels, and paper plates are accepted, but compostable plastic bags are not allowed by Republic Services. Instead, residents can use paper bags or wrap organics in newspaper or paper products to help manage moisture.

Free Bulk Item Pickup

The City of Villa Park and Republic Services provide residents with a convenient pickup option for bulk items and electronics.

Single-Family Units: 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 20 bulk items each collection day. 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.

Commercial Premises: For a fee, bulk item pickups are available by appointment. Call Republic Services Customer Service at **800.700.8610** for details and to schedule.

Help Us Keep Villa Park Clean

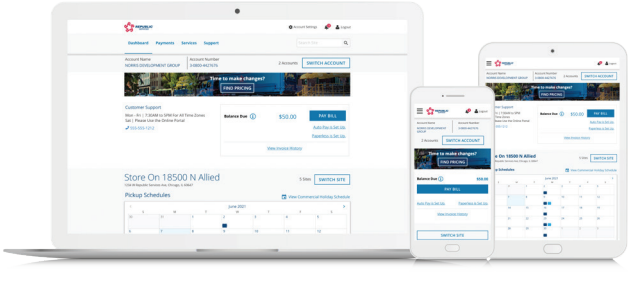
Illegally dumped items are more than just an eyesore; they can pose serious health and safety risks and may negatively impact property values. Taking proactive steps to prevent and clean up illegal dumping helps maintain a cleaner, safer and more attractive community. One simple action you can take is 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.

Download the Republic Services App

Republic Services gives you one simple tool to manage your account needs. Visit **RepublicServices.com/Account/login** to sign up or download the app.



GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Contact Us

Republic Services

Collection Service, Billing, Public Disposal Center
800.700.8610

RepublicServices.com/municipality/villa-park-ca

Street Sweeping Citation, Storm Drains, Sewers
714.998.1500

Household Hazardous Waste
714.834.6752

REPUBLIC SERVICES

©2026 Republic Services, Inc.