



Sustainability in Action

Biodegradable or Compostable: What's the Difference?

The terms "biodegradable" and "compostable" are often used interchangeably, but they do not mean the same thing. **Biodegradable** simply means a product will break down over time through natural processes. That breakdown may take many years, especially in a landfill. **Compostable** products, by contrast, are designed to break down into organic matter in a controlled commercial composting facility without leaving harmful residue.

Many single-use cups, plates, and utensils marketed as compostable require specific industrial conditions to break down properly. Not all composting facilities accept these materials, and some plant-based plastics—such as those made from corn, potato, or sugarcane (Polylactic acid or PLAs)—may contain traditional plastic components. By mixing natural products with plastic, a hybrid is created that is not 100% plastic (and therefore cannot be accepted in the recycling cart) and not acceptable in most compost facilities.

Only uncoated, unlined (not shiny), food-soiled paper products such as paper towels, napkins, paper plates, and pizza boxes should be placed in your green organics container, while all other single-use plastic utensils and cups should be placed in the trash.



SB 1383 Compliance in Antioch

Businesses in Antioch are required to recycle food waste under Senate Bill ("SB") 1383, which mandates organic waste separation. Participating businesses, supported by Republic Services, include various local eateries aiming to reduce landfill waste. The city currently is **87% compliant in diverting food waste!** Special shoutout to some of the businesses who are doing an amazing job with organics and recycling diversion: **Bridgehead Cafe, Cielo Supermarket, Celia's Mexican Restaurant, Dutch Bros Coffee, St John's Lutheran Church, Sylvia's Country Kitchen, Sutter Delta Medical Hospital, the Original Mels Diner,** and many more!



Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste ("HHW")

Items like fluorescent bulbs, batteries, cleaning chemicals, and e-waste should never be disposed of in the trash. Contact a licensed hazardous waste disposal company to ensure these materials are disposed of properly. Eligible small businesses in Antioch may dispose of their hazardous waste at Delta Diablo; visit [DeltaDiablo.org/hazardous-waste-from-small-businesses](https://www.DeltaDiablo.org/hazardous-waste-from-small-businesses) or call **925.756.1900** for more information.



Landfill



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



Recycle



Empty, Clean, and Dry

- No Liquids
- No Textiles
- No Carpet
- No Food
- No Green Waste
- No Hazardous Waste



Recyclables should be loose (*no bags*).

Compost



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

- No Metal
- No Glass
- No Plastic
- No Hazardous Waste



Organics should be loose (*no bags*) or in compostable or paper bags only. No plastic bags.

SB 1383 REQUIREMENTS

All customers must subscribe to all 3 collection streams. Even if you are self-hauling material, you still must have service. For more information on how the City of Antioch is implementing SB 1383, visit AntiochCA.gov/1074/SB-1383-Implementation

Multifamily Complexes

The property owner/manager must:

- Annually educate tenants and employees effectively on how to properly sort organic waste into the correct bins.
- Provide information to effectively educate new tenants within 14 days of new tenant's occupation of the premises.

Businesses

All businesses are required to participate in organics collection service through Republic Services. Any self-haul of organics must be separated out from other discards and hauled to a composting facility/program. Visit Resource.StopWaste.org for a full list of what can go in each cart.

- Businesses must sort all their organic waste into the correct containers.
- Businesses must provide clearly marked and correctly color-coded collection containers for organic waste together with trash and recycling containers in all areas where people generate waste.
- All businesses must provide effective education to employees, contractors, tenants, and customers on how to correctly sort organic waste into the correct container.

Technical and Educational Assistance

Need help making sure you are in compliance with SB 1383 or just want to improve your recycling and organics programs? Republic Services can provide educational material, posters, employee trainings, waste assessments, and program support at no additional cost; contact our Sustainability Advisors for more information.

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