

Residential Recycling & Waste Service Newsletter

Serving Rodeo

2ND QUARTER 2025

Is That Bag Really Compostable? Decoding BPI Certification

Navigating the world of compostable bags can be confusing. BPI stands for the Biodegradable Products Institute, a leading organization in North America that verifies which products can safely break down in commercial composting facilities. Let's clarify what BPI certification means and how to identify compostable products.

What is a BPI-certified compostable bag?

A BPI-certified compostable bag has undergone rigorous testing and meets specific scientific standards for biodegradability and compostability. Essentially, a BPI-certified bag is designed to decompose into nutrient-rich soil at the same rate as other organic materials within a commercial composting environment. This means it's not simply "biodegradable" (which can take a very long time, in some cases), but rather is designed for rapid breakdown under controlled conditions.

How do you know if your bag is BPI-certified?

This is the crucial part. Without the proper markings, you can't be sure your bag is truly compostable. Here's what to look for:

- ▶ **The BPI logo:** The most reliable indicator is the BPI logo itself. This logo indicates that the product has passed the necessary testing. Look for the BPI logo clearly printed on the bag.
- ▶ **ASTM D6400 standards:** BPI certification is based on American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards. These standards specify the requirements for plastics and other materials to be labeled as compostable in commercial composting facilities. You might see these numbers printed on the bag, often alongside the BPI logo.



Note: This information pertains specifically to compostable bags. Not all bioplastics are certified BPI-compostable. Bioplastic cups, utensils or other non-bag items are not accepted in the green cart.

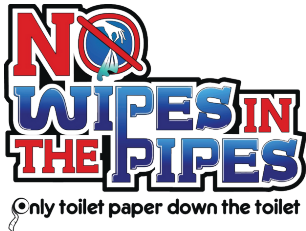
Can you put your grocery store bags in the green cart?

The answer depends on the bag. Due to Senate Bill (SB) 1046, California grocery stores are transitioning to compostable or recycled paper produce bags. Visit CalRecycle.ca.gov/plastics/bagrequirements for more information. Here is a guide for grocery store bags:

- ▶ **Compostable produce bags:** Under SB 1046, bags offered must meet specific compostability standards (such as those listed above) and be properly labeled with a certification logo. If no certification logo is present, do not discard it in your green cart.
- ▶ **Paper bags:** Paper bags can be discarded in the green cart.
- ▶ **Plastic bags:** Traditional produce bags should be placed in the trash cart.

By understanding BPI certification and taking the time to verify your bags, you can ensure you're contributing to a healthier environment and preventing contamination of our valuable compost resources. Visit www.RichmondSanitaryService.com to find a detailed list of acceptable items for your green cart.





No Wipes in the Pipes

Baby wipes and sanitizing wipes should be thrown away in the trash, not in the toilet. They do not break apart like toilet paper and will cause unwanted backups and could even

cause permanent and expensive damage. Save your pipes – don't flush your wipes!

Please contact the Rodeo Sanitary District with any questions at **510.799.2970**.



Republic Services 2025 Holiday Schedule

Please be aware that we will be observing the following holidays in 2025:

- ▶ New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1
- ▶ Independence Day: Friday, July 4
- ▶ Labor Day: Monday, September 1
- ▶ Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 27
- ▶ Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25

As a result of these holidays falling on weekdays, our service schedule will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week in which they occur. For example, if a holiday falls on a Wednesday, our services for that week will be delayed by one day from Wednesday to Thursday, and so on.

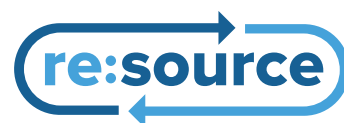


When in Doubt, Find Out!

Uncertain of where to place your waste? Feeling overwhelmed by sorting options? Do you have a broken item you're not sure how to fix? Visit **ReSource.Stopwaste.org**. This online tool by StopWaste is your one-stop online guide for all things reuse, repair, recycle and safe disposal. It provides detailed and localized information on the disposal and/or disposal alternatives of specific items entered into the search box and by providing your ZIP code.

Need more help?

Visit **www.RichmondSanitaryService.com**.



We're Giving Away Compost!

This quarter's giveaways will occur on April 2, May 7 and June 4. Residents in our service area can obtain up to 2 cubic yards of compost EVERY first Wednesday of the month, all year, for NO CHARGE. Add compost to your garden this spring to help retain nutrients and preserve water year-round. More information: **Tinyurl.com/CompostProgram**.

