Effective January 1, 2022, all California residences, multifamily complexes, and businesses will be required to separate organic waste from the trash and participate in an organics collection program per State Senate Bill (SB) 1383, California’s Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy.

Organics consist of food waste and green or yard waste. SB 1383 was passed in an effort to divert organics from our landfills to help further reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. For every 2½ tons of food rescued, that’s the equivalent of taking 2 million cars off the road for a year. Furthermore, 1 in 4 children go hungry in California. SB 1383 sets a goal of 20% edible food recovery for large commercial generators which will help ensure we redirect perfectly edible food that is currently being thrown away to feed Californians who are food insecure. Depending on your household type, Waste Management will collect your organic waste and transport it to a facility to be converted into energy or into a nutrient-rich compost to nourish soil and plants.

For more information about this new Senate Bill, visit calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp.

Home Composting

For residents who would like to learn to compost at home, Waste Management has created an easy and convenient backyard composting and worm composting video tutorial.

Why learn to compost? Composting is nature’s way of recycling food and yard waste into a valuable and organic fertilizer for your garden. Nearly 20% of our waste that ends up in landfills could be composted. Adding compost to your soil reduces watering needs, adds nutrients to the soil, eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers, and keeps these harsh substances out of our storm drains and waterways. Best of all, it’s free and made from your trash!

Composting: A Very Simple Recipe

**Organic material.** Greens (food scraps, yard trimmings, grass) and Browns (dry leaves, sawdust, straw, wood ashes, newspaper).

**Water.** Add water occasionally to moisten the pile.

**Air.** Mix every two weeks to add air to the pile.

To access video tutorials of Backyard Composting and Worm Composting, visit our website at home. wm.com/mission-viejo. Click the link under “Helpful Resources.”
Recycling Cart

Paper
- Newspaper
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Paper Envelopes
- Junk Mail
- Magazines/Catalogs
- Phone Books
- Paper Bags
- Non-Metallic Wrapping Paper
- Cardboard

Metal and Glass
- Aluminum Cans
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Tin Cans
  (Canned Vegetables and Soup)
- Steel Cans
- Glass Bottles (Wine, Liquor, Juice)
- Glass Food Jars (Condiments)

Plastics
- Plastic Bottles (Water, Juice, Soda)
- Plastic Jugs (Milk and Juice)
- Plastic Jars (Condiments)
- Plastic Containers/Tubs

Trash Cart

The trash cart is for household waste that cannot be recycled.
Carts must not be overfilled, and lids should be able to close. Material should be loosely packed so the carts will empty easily.

- Polystyrene Foam
  (Styrofoam Containers and Packaging)
- Non-Recyclable Plastics
- Plastic Liners/Film
- Plastic Utensils
- Soiled Paper Cups
- Wax-Coated Paper Cups
- Pet Waste/Diapers
- Garden Hoses
- Non-Donatable Clothing, Bedding, Textiles

Make sure recyclables are loose, clean, and dry before placing in the recycling cart!

No Bagged Recyclables
Do not place bagged recyclables or plastic film in your recycling bin as these materials will be deemed as contamination. Plastic bags and film tangle equipment at recycling facilities and contaminate recycling loads.

This poses a safety risk to workers and reduces the chances of the item being recycled.

If you collect your recyclables in a bag, empty them directly into your cart and reuse the bag. Learn where you can recycle plastic bags and film at plasticfilmrecycling.org.
Food Waste and Organics Cart

Acetable Items
- Meat, Fish, Poultry
- Dairy Products
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Bread, Pasta, Rice, Grains
- Bones, Eggshells, Seafood Shells
- Plate Scrapings
- Food Soiled Paper/Paper Napkins (minimal amounts acceptable)
- Grass
- Leaves/Tree Branches
- Shrubs/Brush
- Plants/Weeds
- Garden Trimings
- Sawdust

Unacceptable Items
- Silverware/Dishware
- Glass, Metal, and Rubber
- Food Packaging Material
- Plastic Bags and Containers
- Compostable or Biodegradable Products and Bags
- Animal Waste
- Soil or Rocks
- Paper or Plastic

Recycle Right and Avoid Contamination

Have you ever heard the phrase, “one bad apple spoils the bunch?” The same is true for recycling, where any item that is not recyclable can potentially spoil an entire batch of otherwise good material. Please do not dispose of any trash, furniture, bulky items, food waste, green waste, plastic liners/film, Styrofoam, clothing or textiles, propane tanks, electronic items, or any non-recyclable material into the recycling container as this will be considered contamination. If your container is contaminated, you may be assessed a contamination charge.

In addition, new California Senate Bill 1383 requires proper usage of all three containers, meaning no organic waste or recycling in the trash. Be sure to follow this “What Goes Where” guide to also ensure you do not contaminate your organics container or trash container with unacceptable items. Improper usage of these containers may also result in a contamination charge.

Visit wm.com/recycle-right for 24/7 access to recycling education and resources, or contact your local Mission Viejo Recycling Coordinator at MVRecycling@wm.com for further education materials and recycling support.

Hazardous Waste

Do not place needles, chemicals, paint, fluorescent light bulbs, propane tanks, full or partially full aerosol containers, batteries and electronics, and/or construction debris inside any of your containers.

For more information on hazardous waste and local sites to properly dispose of these items, please visit oclandfills.com/hazardous.

Waste Management thanks you for your dedication to recycling right and complying with state recycling mandates.
Tips and Tricks for Keeping Your Organics Container Clean and Fresh

• Empty out, rinse, and dry your kitchen pail daily.
• You may line your pail and organics container with a piece of paper or paper napkin to absorb any liquids and food waste.
• Consider lining your organics container with a layer of green waste before placing your food waste inside.
• Consider buying a charcoal filter for your organics bin to mitigate odors.
• Keep your food scraps in the fridge or freezer and empty it directly into the organics cart on your service day to minimize odors.

All single-family residents are eligible to receive one free cart exchange per year, per waste type (excluding food pails). Contact WM Customer Service at (949) 642-1191, or visit wm.com/us/en/support for assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I do not produce organic waste; I compost at home. Can I opt out of the program?
A: No, this a mandatory service per State Senate Bill 1383.

Q: Will I be receiving a fourth cart to separate food waste?
A: No, food waste will be co-mingled with the green waste in the organics cart. For those customers who currently have only a trash and recycling cart, you will be receiving a third cart for organics collection.

Q: Can I request a smaller organics collection container?
A: Yes, Waste Management offers 35-, 65-, and 95-gallon cart sizes to meet the specific needs of residents. To request a change in size, please contact WM Customer Service at (949) 642-1191 or visit wm.com/us/en/support for assistance.

Q: How can I avoid odors and residue?
A: Please refer to the Tips and Tricks for Keeping your Container Clean and Fresh section for best practices.

Q: Can I place plastic, biodegradable or compostable bags in my organics container?
A: Please do not place any type of bag inside the organics cart. If you choose to collect your organic waste inside a bag, please empty the bag directly into your organics cart and discard the bag into the trash container.

Q: Can I place compostable or biodegradable products in my organics container?
A: Unfortunately, these products often do not break down at industrial composting facilities currently. At this time, we ask that you please do not place these products in your organics container.

Q: What can I put inside my organics container?
A: Meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice, grains, plate scrapings, food soiled paper (minimal amounts acceptable), grass, leaves, small branches, shrubbery, plants, weeds, and garden trimmings. Please refer to the “What Goes Where” section for the complete list of acceptable and unacceptable items.

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Local Food Banks & Pantries

SB 1383 sets a goal to redirect perfectly edible food that is currently being thrown away to feed Californians who are food insecure. Below is a list of local food pantries you can visit or donate to in order to help further reduce food waste.

St. Killian’s Church Food Pantry
26872 Estanciero, Mission Viejo
(949) 586-4440
stkilianmissionviejo.org/outreachfood-pantry

Saddleback Church Food Pantry
1 Purpose Drive, Lake Forest
(949) 609-8111
saddleback.com/connect/ministry/food-pantry

Mercy Warehouse
27632 El Lazo, Suite A, Laguna Niguel
(949) 910-0024
mercywarehouse.com

Laguna Food Pantry
20652 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach
(949) 497-7121
lagunafoodpantry.org

South County Outreach 7
Whatney, Suite B, Irvine
(949) 380-8144
sco-oc.org

Second Harvest Food Bank
8014 Marine Way, Irvine
(949) 653-2900

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