

# Garden Grove Recycling & Waste Newsletter



Sustainability in Action

WINTER 2023

RepublicServices.com/municipality/garden-grove-ca | 800.700.8610

## Organics Recycling Changes Are Here



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As required by California Senate Bill (SB) 1383, the City of Garden Grove approved an organics recycling program in partnership with the City's waste hauler, Republic Services.

Organic waste includes all food scraps, including cooked meat, fish, poultry, bones, fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice and grains; food-soiled paper, such as pizza boxes, coffee filters, wet

paper towels and soiled napkins; and yard waste, including grass clippings, leaves, small branches, plants, weeds and garden trimmings.

SB 1383 requires reductions in the volume of organic waste sent to landfills as part of a larger plan to reduce emissions of methane gas and other climate pollutants. SB 1383 establishes a goal of 75% reduction of organic waste disposed of in landfills by 2025.

SB 1383 also establishes a goal of increasing edible food recovery from

## Mark Your Calendar for the Compost Giveaway

Compost creates healthier soil by adding organic matter and improving soil structure. Healthy soil uses water more efficiently, allowing available water to flow toward your plants' roots, storing water in the soil longer, and reducing runoff and erosion.

The City of Garden Grove and Republic Services will be giving away compost for free on Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. (or until compost runs out), at the Garden Grove Municipal Service Center, 13802 Newhope St. Please bring your own containers or buckets for Republic Services staff to fill with compost. This event will be held rain or shine but may be subject to changes or postponement for other reasons. For updates, visit [RepublicServices.com/](http://RepublicServices.com/)



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[municipality/garden-grove-ca](http://municipality/garden-grove-ca) or [GGcity.org/organics-recycling](http://GGcity.org/organics-recycling).

To receive free compost, residents must provide proof of residency (California driver's license or utility bill). There is a limit of 60 gallons of compost per household.

For more information, contact Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.

businesses by 20% by 2025. Depending on the size of your business, you may be required to participate in a food recovery and donation program for surplus edible food. 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/](http://Oclandfills.com/)

[environmental-programs/recycling/edible-food-recovery](http://environmental-programs/recycling/edible-food-recovery).

For more information about SB 1383, visit [CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp](http://CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp). For a guide to "What Goes Where" in your Garden Grove carts and dumpsters, visit [GGcity.org/organics-recycling](http://GGcity.org/organics-recycling).

## What Is Organic Waste?



### Acceptable items to be mixed with your yard waste

#### Yard Waste



#### Food Waste\*



#### Food-Soiled Paper & Paper Bags\*



\*You can place food in a paper bag.

### Unacceptable items



Recyclables



Plastic Bags & Wrap



Fats, Oils & Grease



Construction Waste



Hazardous Waste



Trash & Pet Waste

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



# One Bad Apple Ruins the Bunch



## Free Community Cleanup Drop-off Days

The City of Garden Grove, in partnership with Republic Services, is hosting a series of community cleanup days throughout the city to help residents properly dispose of furniture, bulk items, non-refrigerant appliances, scrap metal, electronic waste, tree limbs (4-foot length maximum), brush, leaves and lawn clippings at no additional cost.

These are self-service events, so residents need to be prepared to unload their own items. Locations move around Garden Grove to make these events convenient for all residents. All cleanups run from 9 to 11 a.m.

- Saturday, February 11 – Garden Grove Park, 9301 Westminster Blvd.
- Saturday, February 25 – Skylark Elementary School, 11250 Mac Murray St.
- Saturday, March 11 – Pacifica High School, 6851 Lampson Ave.
- Saturday, March 25 – Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.
- Saturday, April 8 – Garden Grove Unified School District Main Office, 10331 Stanford Ave.
- Saturday, April 22 – Garden Grove Municipal Service Center, 13802 Newhope St.

We will NOT accept hazardous waste (such as paints, oils, chemicals, pesticides, batteries or LED lights); construction and demolition materials (such as concrete, dirt, rocks, brick, asphalt, sand or treated/painted wood); tires; large appliances (such as refrigerators, freezers, and AC units); and palm fronds. For a full list of unacceptable items, visit [GGcity.org/cleanup-days](http://GGcity.org/cleanup-days).

Dates and locations may be subject to change. Check the City website and social media posts for updates or call **714.741.5344** for more information.



## Holiday Collection Schedule

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 29, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- Independence Day – Tuesday, July 4, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- Labor Day – Monday, September 4, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 23, 2023 (Thursday and Friday service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day – Monday, December 25, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- New Year's Day – Monday, January 1, 2024 (service delayed one day)

Did you know that putting food waste or trash in the curbside recycling cart can ruin the recyclable material? For example, food waste can make paper products wet and soggy, preventing them from being recycled. Trash can disrupt a recycling facility's sorting processes, causing some materials to be landfilled.

Here are some tips for collection day:

### DO

- Close the lids on all your carts.
- Bag only waste that will be placed into your trash cart.
- Toss only LOOSE recyclables into the recycling cart.
- Place only recyclables into the recycling cart. If you aren't sure what is recyclable, visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](http://RecyclingSimplified.com).
- Break down and flatten boxes before recycling. If needed, cut cardboard into pieces no larger than about 18 by 18 inches.
- Empty food and beverage containers. Wipe or rinse out food residue, as needed. Allow containers to dry before putting them into the recycling cart.
- Place carts at least 2 feet away from each other and from mailboxes, telephone poles or parked cars.
- Roll carts to the curb by 6 a.m. on your collection day. If you aren't an early riser, set out your carts the night before collection.
- Place carts with the wheels and handles facing your house.

### DONT

- Don't leave the cart lids open.
- Don't place bagged waste on top of

your trash cart.

- Don't bag your recycling.
- Don't overfill carts. Save extra materials to be placed in carts the following week.
- Don't put any of these items into your recycling cart: plastic bags; food; takeout coffee cups; clothing and textiles; hoses and cords; tissues, napkins and paper towels; or household batteries.

California's SB 1383 requires all recycling, organics and trash carts and dumpsters to follow the same design guidelines. As carts and dumpsters age, they will be replaced with SB 1383-compliant containers. New accounts will also receive carts or dumpsters in these standard colors. The entire city will be changed to the new colors by the end of 2027.

In accordance with this state law, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual container 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 items are found in the container that are not accepted, a tag will be placed on the cart or dumpster identifying the incorrect items. Fees to cover the additional cost in processing 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.

## RECYCLABLES

**Acceptable items (empty, clean and dry)**

**Unacceptable items**

REPUBLIC SERVICES Sustainability in Action

# Eating Well While Wasting and Spending Less



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In the United States, as much as 40% of all food goes to waste. That waste costs a family of four more than \$1,500 each year. At home, you can reduce your food waste by using the 3 Rs — Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Try these tips to enjoy your food, reduce your waste and spend less money at the grocery store.

- Plan your meals for the week. Only buy what you need to make those meals. If possible, try to avoid ingredients that can only be used in one specific meal. Only make as much food as your family needs, and store leftovers in your freezer or refrigerator to be eaten later.
- Get the most out of your ingredients. If you have extra ingredients that you need to use, look online for recipes that use those ingredients. You might discover your new favorite meal this way.
- If portions are large at a restaurant, share with a friend or family member. Bring along your own reusable containers to take leftovers home with you. It's better to eat these leftovers sooner rather than later.
- Organize your refrigerator and pantry to have an "eat first" shelf for leftovers, open items and foods that are close to their "best by" dates.
- Freeze extra food. Food that is

frozen can be thawed out and used later. To see how long items can be safely stored in the freezer, visit [FoodSafety.gov/food-safety-charts/cold-food-storage-charts](https://www.foodsafety.gov/food-safety-charts/cold-food-storage-charts).

- Make your own stock. Vegetables that are reaching the end of their freshness can be tossed into a pot with water and aging spices and then simmered into a delicious stock. This stock can then be frozen for future use.
- If you have unwanted food, share it with friends or donate it. Local food banks always appreciate donations. Bring them your unwanted nonperishable foods, and they will be very grateful for it. Perishable goods, such as produce or baked goods, can be shared among friends and quickly make you the most popular person in your neighborhood.
- Compost your food scraps. You can compost fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as bread, pasta, grains, coffee grounds and tea bags, in your backyard compost bin or pile. Bury the food about 10 inches below the surface to discourage unwanted pests. You can also compost food scraps in a vermicompost (worm composting) bin indoors or an in-ground food composter outdoors. Or, you can recycle your food scraps in your Republic Services curbside organics cart.



## Large Items to Discard?

### Don't Dump Them – Call Us

Furniture and old appliances 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 Garden Grove and Republic Services provide residents with convenient, weekly pickups for bulk items and electronics by appointment. Residents may request up to three bulk item pickups per year, with a total of 10 items accepted per pickup, at no additional cost. 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 your next regular collection day.

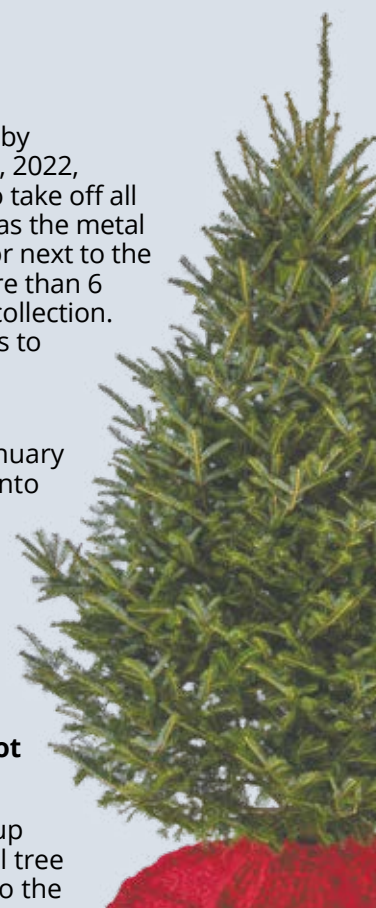
When you do spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the city. If you see someone dumping illegally, do not confront them. If possible, discreetly take a photo of the activity. Write down a description of the person, as well as vehicle make, color and license plate number. Call the City's illegal dumping hotline at **714.741.5375** or the Garden Grove Police Department's non-emergency number, **714.741.5704**, to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our city looking good for residents and visitors.

## Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services from Tuesday, December 27, 2022, through Saturday, January 14, 2023. Be sure to take off all lights, ornaments, tinsel and garlands, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb or next to the dumpsters in your complex. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection. Because of the chemicals used in flocking trees to create the snow effect, no flocked trees will be accepted for recycling.

If you don't take your tree down until after January 14, 2023, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your organics cart or dumpster with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your organics cart or dumpster. The wreaths and greenery must also be bare, so please remove all wires, hooks, bows and other decorations. Collected trees and greenery are turned into mulch, compost and ground cover. **Artificial trees and wreaths and flocked trees are not recyclable.**

If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you are discarding an artificial tree or wreath or a flocked tree, please place it into the waste cart or dumpster, or schedule a bulk item pickup.



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## Meet German Hernandez

As General Manager, German Hernandez is responsible for all operations in the Anaheim and Santa Ana Hauling Divisions. He ensures that all federal, state and local laws and ordinances are met and is responsible for managing all programs to provide the highest levels of service in the safest manner possible. Mr. Hernandez joined the Republic Services team in 2013, bringing more than 25 years of management experience working in recycling and waste collection. He has managed several large municipal contracts throughout Orange, Los Angeles and Imperial counties.

## Safe Disposal for Sharps

Many people use “sharps,” such as needles, syringes or lancets, to care for a medical condition at home. Protect members of your family and collection workers by properly and safely disposing of used sharps. Republic Services provides residents in Garden Grove with up to four free sharps disposal kits per year. These kits come with a 1-gallon sharps container, instructions and a prepaid postage mailing packet to use when the container is full. Kits will be mailed to your home or can be made available for pickup. There is a limit of one sharps disposal kit per household per quarter. To order your free kit, call Republic Services Customer Service at **855.737.7871** or visit [RepublicServices.com/residents/sharps-and-needle-disposal](https://www.RepublicServices.com/residents/sharps-and-needle-disposal) and enter the coupon code ‘GARDENGROVE’ at checkout.

### Contact Us

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

Household Hazardous Waste  
**714.834.6752**

Residential Motor Oil Collection  
**800.449.7587**

Street Sweeping Citation,  
Storm Drains, Sewers  
**714.741.5375**

*Republic Services is the sole provider of waste services in the City of Garden Grove.*



[RepublicServices.com/  
municipality/garden-grove-ca](https://www.RepublicServices.com/municipality/garden-grove-ca)

## Properly Dispose of Batteries, Hazardous Chemicals and Electronics



Batteries power our everyday lives, but at the end of their lives, they can present a fire hazard — especially if they are improperly disposed of with household trash. Properly dispose of batteries to avoid fires like this that put the collection driver and surrounding vehicles in danger, damage expensive equipment and risk starting larger fires. If batteries survive the ride in the collection truck, they can start fires in landfills or at materials recovery facilities, where blazes can quickly get out of control.

Historically, we've experienced some truck and facility fires because rechargeable batteries and flammable materials were improperly disposed of with recyclables or waste. When a fire occurs in a truck, it is extremely dangerous for the driver, and it also puts surrounding vehicles, pedestrians and properties at risk. At a facility where recyclable paper and plastics are moving rapidly along conveyors, a fire can quickly spread, endangering workers and causing costly facility shutdowns and repairs.

You can help reduce the risk of fires by properly disposing of all household batteries, hazardous waste and electronics. Here's what you need to do:

- When you remove batteries from devices and prepare to discard them, tape over the terminal ends with clear packing tape. Bag your batteries in a sealable plastic bag.

- Separate household hazardous chemicals, including pesticides and fertilizers, oil-based paint, automotive fluids, pool chemicals and similar items, from other waste.
- Set aside old electronic devices, such as computers, televisions, laptops, tablets, smartphones and wireless speakers.
- Do not place any of these items into your recycling, yard waste or trash carts or dumpsters!
- Deliver batteries, household chemicals and electronics to one of Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. These items are accepted at no charge. For locations and other details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous](https://www.OCLandfills.com/hazardous) or call **714.834.6752**.

## Used Motor Oil Pickup for Garden Grove Residents

Used motor oil and filters can be recycled and are accepted at Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. Residents also have the option of recycling used motor oil at a local State Certified Collection Center; visit [www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/CertifiedCenters](https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/CertifiedCenters) for locations. In addition, Garden Grove offers a Residential Used Motor Oil Recycling Program. To participate in this program, follow these few simple steps:

- Drain your oil into a clean, sealable plastic container, such as a milk, water or detergent bottle or an oil bottle, not larger than 5 gallons.
- Place oil filters into a plastic bag and seal it.
- No more than 20 gallons of oil will be accepted per pickup.
- Call **800.449.7587** to schedule a collection.
- On your scheduled collection day, place the items by your front door or on your driveway, as directed.
- The collection crew will arrive between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the collection day and will put the items into a spill-proof container in the collection vehicle.

For more information, call the City's Used Motor Oil Recycling Administrator at **714.741.5344**.