

Garden Grove Recycling & Waste Newsletter



REPUBLIC
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

SPRING 2025

RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA | 800.700.8610

The Dos and Don'ts of Recycling



DO

- **Know What's Recyclable** – Place clean, dry paper and cardboard in your recycling cart or dumpster. You can also recycle metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs, and containers.
- **Label Your Bins** – Clearly labeling your recycling bins at home helps

everyone stay on track. A simple label that shows what goes where can prevent contamination.

- **Keep Items Empty, Clean and Dry** – Before you toss them in the bin, empty out bottles and containers, rinse away any residue, and let them air dry. Moisture and leftover food can spoil an entire batch of recycling.
- **Keep Recyclables Loose** – Never bag your recyclables. Items should go into the cart or dumpster loose so they can be properly sorted at the recycling facility.
- **Keep Cart Lids Closed** – Lids that stay shut keep animals like raccoons, cats, and possums from digging through your waste.

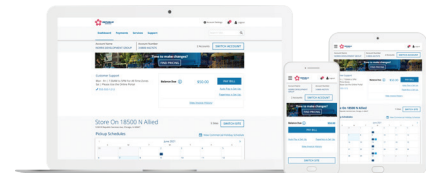
DON'T

- **Put Hazardous Items in the Recycling** – Items like hoses, cords, batteries, chemicals, and medical sharps don't belong in your recycling cart. These items can be dangerous for workers and damage recycling equipment.
- **Toss in Contaminated Items** – Greasy pizza boxes and food-soiled containers should go in your organics cart, while diapers belong in the trash, not the recycling bin. One messy item can spoil an entire load.

New rates for services go into effect on July 1, 2025. You can view them at [GGcity.org/pw/trash-recycling](https://ggcity.org/pw/trash-recycling). For more tips about recycling, visit RecyclingSimplified.com.

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.



Free Community Cleanup Drop-Off Days

The City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Sanitary District, in partnership with Republic Services, will be hosting a series of community cleanup days throughout the Sanitary District 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 in which residents will be unloading their own items. All cleanups are from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- Saturday, July 19 – Garden Grove Park, 9301 Westminster Ave.
- Saturday, September 13 – H. Louis Lake Senior Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.
- Saturday, November 8 – Public Works, 13802 Newhope St.

New this year, all 2025 cleanup events will also include on-site paper shredding and household battery collection. Residents may bring up to four (4) boxes of paper for shredding, as well as used household batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, and similar sizes) for free disposal.

Please note that certain items will not be accepted, including hazardous waste (such as paints, oils, chemicals, pesticides, and LED lights); construction and demolition debris (such as concrete, dirt, rocks, brick, asphalt, sand, or treated/painted wood); tires; large appliances (such as refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners); and palm fronds. For a full list of unacceptable items, visit GGcity.org/cleanup-days.

All dates and locations are weather permitting and subject to change. Check the City website or social media channels for updates, or call **714.741.5344** for more information.

Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with state law, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual contamination monitoring reviews. Representatives, in clearly identified uniforms, will be in the community reviewing the contents of yard waste, recycling, and trash carts and dumpsters. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the cart or dumpster identifying the incorrect items. Residents are allowed three free passes before Republic Services can assess a contamination fee, while commercial accounts receive one free pass. 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.

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Republic Services
1131 N. Blue Gum Street
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Garden Grove Honors Its 2025 Sustainability Champions



On April 22, 2025, the City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Sanitary District recognized 11 local businesses and organizations as official Sustainability Champions during a City Council meeting dedicated to celebrating environmental leadership. These honorees were applauded for their commitment to responsible waste practices and for aligning with state recycling laws such as SB 1383 and AB 341.

Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein, along with the City Council, praised the recipients for their measurable progress toward a more sustainable Garden Grove. The program is the result of more than a year of collaboration, led by Republic Services Sustainability Advisor Mike Nguyen, who provided on-site education and support to help each business build effective recycling and organics systems. The initiative was made possible in part by the continued partnership with Garden Grove Sanitary District Senior Program Specialist Mark Ladney.

2025 Sustainability Champions:

- Jay's Catering
- Grace Food Catering
- Starbucks (Magnolia St.)
- St. Luke's Orthodox Church
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Sanyo Foods
- BBQ Chicken Garden Grove
- McDonald's (Harbor Blvd.)
- Costco
- Sprouts (Chapman Ave.)
- Outback Steakhouse

Food Recovery Requirements for Businesses

To further reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, SB 1383 requires that certain California businesses 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, have an agreement with a food recovery organization, and maintain records of their food donation activities for review upon inspection or request by designated agency staff. SB 1383 places mandated food donors or generators into two tiers. All tiered edible food generators, such as wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers, and grocery stores, as well as some cafeterias, restaurants, and venues, are required to comply.

Locally, Abound Food Care (formerly known as Waste Not OC), a partnership of nonprofits, public agencies, and private businesses, is working with Republic Services and the Garden Grove Sanitary District to ensure that surplus food feeds hungry people in our community. Abound Food Care provides system-wide solutions to help food generators channel excess edible food to communities rather than landfills. By reducing food insecurity and food waste, we are improving the health of our communities and the environment. Visit Aboundfoodcare.org to learn more.

The Garden Grove Sanitary District is currently evaluating and establishing documentation and Standard Operating Procedures for Notices of Violation and Administrative Citations issued by the District to commercial and private properties.

What Goes In the Organics Cart?

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a California state law aimed at reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions by targeting short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane. Enacted in 2016, SB 1383 places significant regulations on managing organic waste, including food and yard waste, and mandates that businesses and local governments divert this organic waste from landfills through composting and other sustainable practices. Additionally, the law establishes a goal of reducing the amount of organic waste disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025.



Organic waste includes all food scraps, including cooked meat, fish, poultry, bones, fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice, and grains; food-soiled paper, such as greasy pizza boxes, coffee filters, wet paper towels, and soiled napkins; and yard trimmings, including grass clippings, leaves, small branches, plants, weeds, and yard waste.

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 green or brown organics cart or the organics dumpster with the green or brown lid at your property. Your property should have food waste collection containers. If your property does not, please contact your property management or call Republic Services at **800.700.8610**. Please do not bag food scraps in plastic bags. Place loose food scraps and food-soiled paper into the designated cart or dumpster. You may use paper bags or newspaper. It is recommended to use a kitchen pail or similar transportable container to take materials from your kitchen to your designated containers for collection by Republic Services.

Over the next few years, replacement carts will reflect the state-defined and mandated color schemes that will be used statewide. All residential carts will be transitioned to the new color scheme by the end of 2027. Single-family residents' existing yard waste cart is now a mixed organics cart for both yard waste and food waste. Your current service day will not change.

Businesses

All commercial businesses should have recycling and organics recycling programs in place. Republic Services offers FREE technical assistance to help you with these recycling programs. Call Republic Services at **714.238.3300** to be connected with a specially trained Sustainability Advisor, who can provide additional advice or assist with adjusting service levels for your business' unique trash and recycling needs.

Our Progress

In 2024, residents and businesses diverted a record 24,000 tons of organic materials from landfills. These materials include yard trimmings, food scraps, and other organic waste that are processed into compost and mulch.

Additional Information

For the latest updates regarding organics recycling in Garden Grove, please visit GGcity.org/organics or RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA.

Customer Recycling Is Mandatory for Food Service Businesses

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 facilities where customers throw away their own waste such as food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption. You can download container and cabinet labels from RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources.

If you have questions about business recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, call Republic Services at **714.238.3300**.

Easy Ways to Manage Food Scrap Odors

As the weather gets warmer, you may notice odor from food scraps in your kitchen container or your curbside cart. Here are some tips to manage and reduce odors.

Kitchen Scraps Containers

- Store your kitchen scraps container or pail in the refrigerator, or empty it daily into your organics cart.
- Rinse your scraps container after you empty it.
- Line your scraps container with a paper bag or newspaper to absorb moisture.
- Give your scraps container a light dusting of baking soda to help eliminate odors.
- Store meat and dairy scraps in a container in the freezer, and dispose of them in your organics cart on collection day.



Organics Carts

- Absorb excess moisture with food-soiled paper, such as a pizza box.
- Wrap food scraps in newspaper, or place them into a paper bag.
- Freeze or refrigerate scraps, and place them into the cart on collection day.
- Place leaves or other yard trimmings in the bottom of the cart, add food scraps, and then layer more yard trimmings on top.
- Clean the empty cart as needed. Simply attach an automatic shut-off spray nozzle to your hose, and use a high-pressure stream to spray the bottom and then the inside walls of the cart. Allow the water to sit for an hour. Then, drain the water out onto your lawn or another landscaped area. (Don't drain the water onto your sidewalk or driveway or into the gutter!) Let the cart air-dry in the sun.

Please remember, residents may not use plastic bags of any kind for food scraps! All food scraps should be loose, wrapped in paper, or contained in a paper bag. To learn more about the organics recycling program, please visit RepublicServices.com/GardenGroveCA.

Bulk Item Pickup

Republic Services provides both single-family and multi-family residents with convenient pickups for bulk items and electronics by appointment. Each household 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.

Single-family residents should place items at the curb after scheduling a pickup. Please attach a "Scheduled for Pickup" sign (available at [Bit.ly/3tbDCLi](https://bit.ly/3tbDCLi)) to your bulk items to let our driver know you have scheduled this service. Do not block sidewalks or obstruct traffic. If you live in a multi-family complex, check with your property manager to determine the best location for pickup.

Republic Services Drives Curiosity

Republic Services recently partnered with the Garden Grove Boys & Girls Club for the Touch-a-Truck – Show & Tell event, bringing clean technology and community engagement to the next generation. Students and preschoolers explored our electric and clean-burning collection trucks up close, sparking curiosity and excitement. The team connected with youth through live demonstrations, Q&A sessions, and fun giveaways, while sharing how innovation and sustainability are shaping the future of waste collection. The event wrapped with a warm thank-you from the Boys & Girls Club, recognizing the energy and educational spirit that made the day so memorable. Look for more inspiring moments from Republic Services in Garden Grove!

Putting a Stop to Illegal Dumping

When you 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 Public Works Department 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 community looking good for residents and visitors.



Credit: Pawel Kajak | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste



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

Used Motor Oil Pickup



Credit: Drazen Zigic | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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 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**.

Break Down Those Boxes

Please break down and flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes. Breaking down boxes saves room and prevents materials from getting stuck in your recycling cart or dumpster. It also 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!

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/GardenGroveCA



Holiday Collection Schedule

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 26, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Independence Day – Friday, July 4, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 2025 (service delayed one day)
- New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1, 2026 (service delayed one day)

BATTERY BEWARE

TAKE CHARGE. STAY SAFE.

DON'T Recycle or Trash Lithium Batteries at Home

Lithium batteries are extremely popular because they are reliable and long-lasting. These types of batteries are found in a wide range of devices, including cell phones, power tools, laptops, tablets, children's toys, scooters, electric toothbrushes and more.



PREVENT FIRES

Lithium and lithium-ion batteries, which are made from highly flammable materials, can pose a serious fire risk.¹ If overheated, punctured or faulty, these batteries can cause fires or explode.



PROTECT PEOPLE

Lithium battery fires are incredibly difficult to extinguish and may reignite days later. When batteries fail, they can release toxic gases that endanger individuals in their homes and workplaces.

DO'S & DON'TS

- DON'T** Overcharge lithium batteries or leave them plugged in overnight.
- DON'T** Throw away lithium batteries in the trash.
- DON'T** Try to recycle lithium batteries at home.
- DO** Store batteries between 40°F and 80°F.
- DO** Cover battery terminals with electrical tape and/or place them in separate plastic bags when disposing.
- DO** Dispose of lithium-ion batteries at designated recycling or household hazardous waste collection centers.



LEARN MORE AT:
RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries

1. https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/si/lithium_fire_prevention_si093.pdf



Sustainability in Action



한국어로 나와있습니다.



Disponible en español



Có sẵn bằng tiếng Việt