



FOOD WASTE RECYCLING





New Food Waste Recycling Program Coming to Rancho Cordova

On July 4th, 2022, the City of Rancho Cordova will launch a Food Waste Recycling Program to comply with a new state law, Senate Bill 1383. This program will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change, which include severe drought, warmer temperatures, increased wildfires, and severe storms.

This booklet is designed to provide you with the information you need to recycle your food waste.

Are There Other Changes?

For some residents, your blue Recycling cart pick-up week will change. If so, you will receive a new pick-up schedule in the mail in June.



1

Collect food waste in your home by scraping plates and placing food scraps and food-soiled paper items into a kitchen pail provided to you. Pails will be delivered in June to your doorstep.

2

Empty the food waste from the pail into your green Organics Waste cart as often as you like.

3

Your green cart will now be your Organics Waste cart since it includes both green waste (grass and leaves) and food waste. Your green Organics Waste cart will be picked up weekly.



Clean or unused paper items will still be placed in your blue Recycling cart.

What is Food Waste?

- Food waste includes items that you scrape from your plate after you eat, such as uneaten fruits, vegetables, meat, bones, pizza, rice and pasta.
- Food waste includes items that you usually discard as you prepare meals, such as banana and orange peels, egg shells, and meat and vegetable trimmings.
- Food waste includes food-soiled paper items, like pizza boxes and used paper plates, coffee filters and tea bags, and paper food wrappings for hamburgers or French fries.

DO Put in the Food Waste Pail	Food Waste	Food Soiled Paper
DON'T Put in the Food Waste Pail	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; text-align: center;"> <div> Eating Utensils</div> <div> Beverage Containers</div> <div> Plastic Food Containers</div> <div> Waxed-lined Paper</div> </div>	

What Happens to Food Waste?

Once your food waste is collected each week in your Organics Waste cart, it will be processed in an environmentally friendly way where it becomes compost, which is used to nurture the soil on farms and in home gardens to grow food and healthy plants.

Can I Use a Liner in My Food Waste Pail?

- **BPI-certified compostable bags - YES**
We'll provide you with a roll of BPI-certified compostable bags to get you started! These are friendly to the environment and will break down easily during the composting process.
- **Paper bags - YES**
You can line your food waste pail with a paper bag and empty both the food waste and paper bag into your Organics Waste cart.



- **No liner - YES**

You can also place your food waste in the pail without a bag, empty it into the Organics Waste cart, and then rinse the pail out.

- **Plastic bags - NO**

Regular plastic bags are not allowed because they live on for decades and are not friendly to the environment.



Answers to Your Questions

Why do we need to recycle food waste?

Food waste recycling is required by a new state law, Senate Bill 1383, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change by eliminating the disposal of organic wastes in landfills.

What is food waste?

Food waste includes items that you scrape from your plate (such as fruits, veggies, meat, bones and pizza), items you discard as you prepare meals (banana peels, egg shells, meat and vegetable trimmings), and food-soiled paper (pizza boxes, used paper plates, coffee filters, tea bags).

Can I recycle food waste that's still packaged?

Only food waste can be placed in the green Organics Waste cart and not the packaging. Please remove all packaging, including plastic, glass, and metal—and recycle what you can in your blue Recycling cart. Reuse twist ties and rubber bands, but don't put them in the green Organics Waste cart since they can contaminate the finished compost.

Are there free kitchen collection pails available to residents?

Yes, during the month of June, kitchen pails will be delivered to your home, along with this informational booklet and a roll of 25 certified compostable bags.

How do I avoid smells coming from the kitchen pail?

Make sure to close the cover of your kitchen pail after scraping food waste into it. Empty your kitchen container every few days into your green Organics Waste cart. If you don't want to empty it often, you can store it in a covered container or bag in the freezer or refrigerator to prevent break down and odors.

Can I line my kitchen pail with a bag to hold my food waste?

You may use paper bags or certified compostable bags in your kitchen pail, or no bags at all. Plastic bags are not allowed as they do not break down easily and are not friendly to the environment.

How can I reduce odor from my green Organics Waste cart?

We have been discarding food waste into our garbage carts for years, and there can be odors. With food waste recycling, the food waste is still being discarded, but it's now being placed in your green Organics Waste cart. Using certified compostable bags or paper bags can help prevent odor, as does layering food waste between yard trimmings. Your green Organics Waste cart, like your garbage cart, will now be picked up weekly.

Where is the compost made, and what happens to it afterwards?

Yard clippings and food scraps collected in Rancho Cordova are delivered to several permitted compost facilities around northern California. The materials are cleaned, chipped and placed in "windrows" where they naturally decompose. At the end of the process, the finished compost is ready for use on farms and in home gardens.

Can I get free compost for my garden?

Yes! Three cubic yards of free compost is available to Rancho Cordova residents per year at Republic Services' Recovery and Transfer Station located at 8642 Elder Creek Road in Sacramento. The compost is available Monday through Friday from 8 AM - 5 PM and on Saturday from 8 AM - 3 PM, and you will be asked to show proof that you live in Rancho Cordova. Please bring your own shovel, plus bags or buckets to collect the compost, or a tarp to cover open truckloads.

Will my blue Recycling cart still be picked up every other week?

Yes, your blue recycling cart will continue to be picked up every other week; however, for some residents, your blue Recycling cart pick-up week will change. If so, you will receive a new pick-up schedule in the mail in June. Your green Organics Waste cart and garbage cart will be picked up weekly.



Learn More:

CityofRanchoCordova.org/
[RanchoRecycles](#)



CityofRanchoCordova.org



City of Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916.851.8700

