

# Brea Recycling & Waste Newsletter



Sustainability in Action

WINTER 2024

RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca | 800.700.8610

## Organics Recycling Update

California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), which was signed into law in 2016, establishes a goal of reducing the volume of organic waste disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025. The City of Brea and Republic Services are developing an SB 1383-compliant program for residential customers and are anticipating the program to begin in early 2024. Until implementation occurs, please continue to follow the guidelines below.



recycling cart, it is important to keep items empty, dry and loose.

### Recycling Reminders

- Recycle all clean, dry paper in your curbside recycling cart. This includes cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspaper, office paper, school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags, shredded paper (bagged) and wrapping paper with no metal. Other materials that can be recycled include metal cans, glass bottles/jars and plastic bottles/jugs. When disposing of recyclables in your curbside

### Organics Recycling Reminders

- Use your yard waste cart to dispose of tree limbs, branches, leaves, grass clippings, weeds, other plant material and small scrap wood (no painted or treated wood). Branches and wood must be no more than 4 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet long. Palm fronds, cacti and other succulents, rocks, soil, pet waste, recyclables, food waste and trash are not accepted in the yard waste cart.
- To reduce landscape debris generated at your residence, let grass clippings drop back onto the lawn as you mow and, if room permits, implement an at-home composting container in your backyard. Composting your landscaping debris and fruit/vegetable scraps creates a healthy, nutrient-rich soil that not only reduces outdoor water use, but also contributes to beautiful and productive gardens.
- Information regarding the recycling of food waste and food-soiled paper (such as coffee filters, greasy pizza boxes and paper napkins) will be provided soon. Until then, continue to place these items in your regular trash cart. Updates will be posted on the City of Brea and Republic Services websites. With any questions, please reach out to the City of Brea via email at [Recyclebrea@cityofbrea.net](mailto:Recyclebrea@cityofbrea.net) or call **714.990.7691**.

## Mark Your Calendar for the Compost Giveaway

The City of Brea and Republic Services will be giving away compost for free on Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. (or until compost runs out), at Tri-City Park, 2301 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870. Please bring your own containers or buckets, which Republic Services staff will fill with compost. If it is raining on February 10, this event will be postponed. For updates, visit [RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca](http://RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca).



Credit: Cat\_Chat | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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.

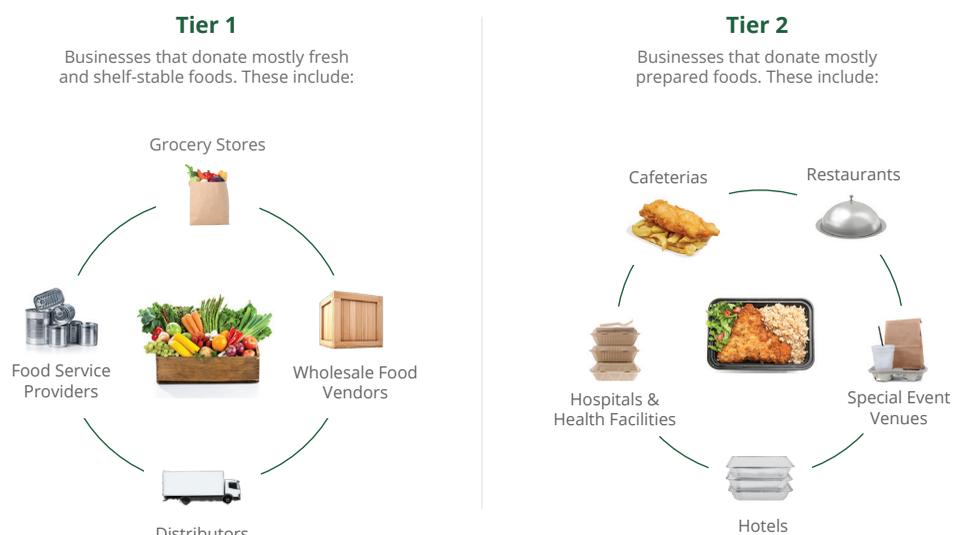
For more information, contact Republic Services at **714.238.2444**.

## Edible Food Recovery

To reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, SB 1383 requires that California 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 and to maintain records of their food donation activities. SB 1383 places mandated food donors into two tiers. Large food businesses, such as wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers and grocery stores, are required to have a food donation program in place. Additional businesses, such as cafeterias, restaurants and venues, are required to comply with SB 1383 beginning January 1, 2024.

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 in or near the City of Brea, please visit [Ci.brea.ca.us/1681/Business](http://Ci.brea.ca.us/1681/Business).

## Donate: What tier are you?



Sustainability in Action

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 PERMIT NO. 220

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

# California Recycling Laws for Businesses and Multi-Family Properties

**Commercial Recycling:** Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341) makes recycling mandatory for businesses and multi-family properties with five or more units that generate 4 or more cubic yards of waste per week. Under AB 341, businesses and properties must recycle paper, cardboard boxes, cans, bottles and containers, as well as other recyclable items that are unique to a business's operations.

**Organics:** Under Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826), California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Organics include both food and yard waste. Organics recycling is mandatory for businesses and multi-family properties that generate 2 or more cubic yards of solid waste (recyclables, trash and organics) per week. Moreover, SB 1383 establishes a goal of increasing edible food recovery from businesses by 20% by 2025. Depending on the type and size of your business, you may be required to participate in a food recovery and donation program for edible food. Businesses that fall under this requirement must donate excess edible food to food recovery organizations, and provide donation reports to the City of Brea.

**Customer Recycling:** Under Assembly Bill 827 (AB 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 need to provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption.



**For Assistance:** If you have questions about your business or multi-family recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements to your services, call Republic Services at **714.238.2444**.

If you feel your business may qualify for a waiver, please contact the City of Brea at [Recyclebrea@cityofbrea.net](mailto:Recyclebrea@cityofbrea.net) or visit the City of Brea website.

# Reducing Food Waste at Home



Food waste is a problem that affects both our economy and the environment. A significant portion of food waste occurs at the household level. Reducing food waste at home is not just a personal responsibility, but also a step toward a more sustainable planet. Here are some practical strategies and tips for minimizing food waste in your home.

## Plan Your Meals

- **Create a Shopping List:** Plan your meals for the week, make a shopping list, and stick to it. This helps you avoid impulse buying and ensures that you purchase only what you need.
- **Use a Meal Planner:** Meal planning apps and tools can help you organize and plan your meals effectively.

## Store Food Properly

- **Use Proper Containers:** Store food in airtight containers to keep it fresh longer.
- **Understand Food Labels:** Learn the difference between "sell by," "use by" and "best by" dates, and don't throw away food that is still good to eat.
- **Rotate Your Stock:** Practice the "first in, first out" method to

ensure that older products are used before newer ones.

## Cook Smarter

- **Cook in Appropriate Portions:** Cook only the amount you need to avoid leftovers that may go to waste.
- **Repurpose Leftovers:** Be creative with your leftovers by transforming them into new meals.
- **Freeze What You Can't Eat:** If you have excess food, freeze it for later instead of tossing it out.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- **Use Food Scraps:** Utilize peels, stems and other parts of vegetables and fruits in broths or as part of other recipes.
- **Compost Your Scraps:** Add fruit and vegetable scraps to your backyard compost or vermicompost container.
- **Recycle Packaging:** Be mindful of packaging, and choose products that have minimal or recyclable packaging.

Reducing food waste at home requires conscious effort, planning and creativity. By incorporating these strategies, you can positively impact the environment, save money, and enjoy a more mindful and sustainable lifestyle.



# Bulk Item Pickup

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 Brea and Republic Services provide residents with three (3) pickups of up to 20 items per collection per calendar year. During these curbside pickups, you may dispose of furniture, appliances, electronics and other large items. To schedule this service, simply call Republic Services Customer Service at **714.238.2444** to schedule a pickup day.

If 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 the vehicle make, color and license plate number. Call the Police Department's nonemergency number to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our city looking good for residents and visitors.

# Planning a Party?

No one wants to host a party or family gathering and run out of food. As a result, we tend to make the opposite mistake — overbuying and over-preparing. By properly estimating how much food you need, you can save yourself time and money. Plus, you'll reduce waste and unwanted leftovers. To calculate what you'll need for your next party or celebration, use the "Guest-imator" tool at [SavetheFood.com/guestimator](http://SavetheFood.com/guestimator).

# What Goes Where?

# Help Reduce the Risk of Fires

## RECYCLING



### Acceptable Items (Empty, Clean and Dry)



### Unacceptable Items



## YARD WASTE

### Acceptable Items



### Unacceptable Items



## TRASH

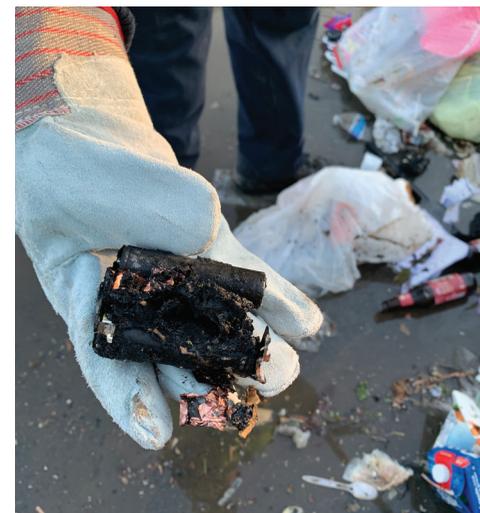
### Acceptable Items



### Unacceptable Items



On a sunny day last December, a Republic Services driver noticed smoke rolling out of the back of his collection truck. He immediately contacted his dispatcher, who alerted the fire department. Knowing that the situation could quickly get out of control, the driver moved away from overhanging trees, parked cars and other objects. The truck wasn't near a parking lot or open space, so the driver had to empty the load onto a neighborhood street where the fire could be put out. After the fire was extinguished, additional crews came out to haul away the material for disposal. The driver's rapid response prevented injuries, as well as damage to the truck and neighboring properties.



This battery most likely sparked the fire in a Republic Services collection truck last December.

It appeared that a small lithium-ion battery pack was to blame for this truck fire. Batteries and other ignitable materials can start fires inside curbside carts, collection trucks and waste facilities. Lithium-ion batteries, which are found in many rechargeable devices, like cell phones, laptops and headphones, are the most common cause of fires.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing curbside trash, they are likely to be mangled. Mechanized trucks typically crush waste when picking it up. At materials recovery facilities (MRFs), items travel across conveyors and tumble through a series of sorting machines. At landfills, waste is compacted by heavy equipment. The fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries not only

cause damage to vehicles or facilities, but they also result in injuries to firefighters, monetary loss, and service disruptions in the community. In addition to posing fire hazards, when we trash our portable devices and their batteries, we cannot reuse the beneficial and often rare materials they contain in new products.

We can all do our part to ensure we properly dispose of these batteries to keep our community safe. Household battery recycling is free and easy at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Centers, as well as at some local retail stores. The closest Orange County HHW Collection Center is located in Anaheim at 1071 N. Blue Gum St. To dispose of batteries at retail locations, visit [Call2Recycle.org](https://www.call2recycle.org).

## Holiday Tree Collection

Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services from Tuesday, December 26, 2023, through Friday, January 12, 2024. 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. No flocked trees will be accepted for recycling.

If you don't take your tree down until after January 12, 2024, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your yard waste cart or dumpster with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and other greenery in your yard waste cart. 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.

If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you are discarding an artificial tree/wreath or a flocked tree, please place it into the trash cart or dumpster, or schedule a bulk item pickup. Artificial trees/wreaths and flocked trees are not recyclable.



# Medication Disposal

Unused or expired medication left in your home can lead to accidental poisoning or allow access for misuse of the medication. Many local drugstores accept medication for proper disposal. You can quickly search online for "medication disposal near me" to locate permanent disposal locations nearby. For more details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal](https://www.ocalandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal).



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## Meet Mitch Kopczyk

As General Manager, Mitch Kopczyk 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. Kopczyk joined the Republic Services team in 2014 and has worked in multiple locations across the country in Texas, Florida, Oklahoma and California.

# Tips for Safe Disposal of Batteries, Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste

- 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/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. Proof of Orange County residence is required. For locations and other details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous](http://OCLandfills.com/hazardous) or call **714.834.6752**.



## Join the Republic Services Family

Republic Services is always looking for talented, hard-working employees. If you would like to stay close to home and advance in a well-paying career, consider joining our team. Available jobs in our region include drivers, equipment operators, mechanics, shop technicians, material sorters, laborers, customer service specialists, dispatchers, recycling coordinators, sales representatives, office support staff members and more. To see and apply for open positions, visit [RepublicServices.jobs](http://RepublicServices.jobs).

### Contact Us

**Trash Collection Service**  
800.700.8610

**Household Hazardous Waste • Orange County**  
714.834.6752

**Public Disposal Center**  
800.700.8610

**Bulk Item Pickup**  
800.700.8610

**Billing • City of Brea**  
714.990.7687

**Street Sweeping Citation,  
Storm Drains and Sewers • City of Brea**  
714.990.7691



[RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca](http://RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca)



## Holiday Collection Schedule

Recycling, yard waste and trash collection service on and after these holidays will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day

## What Do I Do With Old Paint?

Oil-based paint is considered hazardous waste and should be delivered to one of the Orange County HHW Collection Centers. Latex paint is not hazardous. However, liquid paint cannot go into your trash cart. You have several options for proper disposal of latex paint:

- Mix kitty litter or paint hardener into the paint. Allow the paint to dry out and harden. Dispose of the can and lid in your trash. (Remember — never place liquid paint in the trash!)
- Recycle paint through California's Paint Care program. For locations and other details, visit [PaintCare.org](http://PaintCare.org).
- Deliver paint to one of the Orange County HHW Collection Centers. For locations and hours, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous](http://OCLandfills.com/hazardous).



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