

# Fountain Valley Recycling & Waste Newsletter for Residential Customers



Sustainability in Action

SUMMER 2023

RepublicServices.com/FountainValleyCA

## New Residential Organics Recycling Program in Fountain Valley



Credit: Mukhina1 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

California Senate Bill (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. In partnership with Republic Services, Fountain Valley has now implemented the requirements of SB 1383 for both residential and commercial customers. Everyone in the city is now required to participate in the organics recycling program.

Residential organic waste includes all food scraps, including cooked meat, fish, poultry, bones, fruits, vegetables,

bread, pasta, rice and grains; food-soiled paper, such as coffee filters, wet paper towels and soiled napkins; and yard trimmings, including grass clippings, leaves, small branches, plants, weeds and garden waste.

Food scraps and food-soiled paper should now be disposed of with your yard trimmings rather than with your trash. Follow these guidelines to properly handle organics.

- Separate food scraps and food-soiled paper from the recycling and trash in your kitchen.
- Put scraps into a container with a lid to reduce odors. If you wish, you can freeze or refrigerate the scraps.
- Do NOT bag scraps in plastic, compostable or biodegradable collection bags. You may use paper bags or wrap scraps in newspaper to absorb liquids.
- Place loose food scraps and food-soiled paper into the green cart (single-family residents). (Multi-family residents have a slightly different program with a brown-lid container for food waste).
- Keep the green curbside cart cleaner by placing cardboard, leaves or other yard clippings in the bottom, adding food scraps and then layering more yard clippings on top. You can also sprinkle baking soda at the bottom to reduce odor.
- Place all organics inside your cart or dumpster and close the lid — no material should be sticking out of the top or sitting on the ground.

To learn more about the new organics program, please visit [RepublicServices.com/FountainValleyCA](https://RepublicServices.com/FountainValleyCA).



## See What Happens to Collected Organics

Republic Services has a video to show you how residential organics are processed after collection. Watch it here: [Bit.ly/3vW07Ci](https://Bit.ly/3vW07Ci).



Credit: Khosrork | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Putting a Stop to Illegal Dumping

We have seen an increase in illegal dumping in our area over the past few months as residents were doing spring cleaning and clearing out items they no longer needed. Not only are illegally dumped items unsightly, but they can also create health and safety hazards and decrease property values. Here's what you can do to help prevent and clean up illegal dumping:

- When you see litter, pick it up. An area that is clean and clear of litter is more likely to stay that way.
- Use appropriate carts for all organics, recycling and trash.
- Don't set large items that need to be disposed of, such as appliances or furniture, outside until after you make a call to schedule a bulk item pickup.
- When you spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the City of Fountain Valley.
- 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 and/or vehicle, as well as the license plate number. Call the Police Department's non-emergency number to report this activity.
- Take part in community cleanup programs to help keep your city looking good for residents and visitors.

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GREENFIELD, IN  
PERMIT NO. 220

Republic Services  
17121 Nichols Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

# Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any product in your home that could be poisonous or dangerous if thrown in the trash. HHW includes car and lawn care products, paints and paint thinners, cleaning supplies 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.



Credit: timmy | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Dispose of HHW safely Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Orange County HHW Collection Center, located at 17121 Nichols Lane, Gate 6, Huntington Beach. For a list of accepted materials or more information, visit [Oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste).

## 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](https://PaintCare.org).
- Deliver paint to the Orange County HHW Collection Center at 17121 Nichols Lane, Gate 6, Huntington Beach.



Credit: RedBarnStudio | E+ | Getty Images

## Help Reduce Risk of Fire

Did you know batteries and other ignitable materials can start fires inside curbside carts, collection trucks and waste facilities? The most common cause of fires is lithium-ion batteries, which are found in many rechargeable devices, like cell phones, laptops and headphones. Unfortunately, we experienced such a fire in a collection truck in Fountain Valley in December 2022.

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.

## Proper Disposal of "FOG"

**No fats, oils or grease down the drain!**

FOG is the acronym for Fats, cooking Oils and Grease. If FOG goes down the drain and into sewers, it congeals, coating the inside of pipes and leading to blockages and sewer backups. Follow these easy steps to properly dispose of FOG:

- Never put fats, oils or grease down the drain.
- Never put fats, oils or grease in the organics cart or dumpster (green or brown lid).
- Never put liquid FOG into any of your carts or dumpsters.
- At home, mix small quantities of FOG with absorbent materials, such as paper towels, kitty litter, coffee grounds or shredded paper. Then, place it in a plastic bag and put it into your trash cart or dumpster. Never place liquid oil (whether hot or cooled) into your curbside trash cart.
- Dispose of liquid oil from your kitchen at home, as well as larger quantities, such as liquid cooking oil from a turkey fryer, at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (see left for the closest location and hours). Place oil into a sealed container (5 gallons or less in size) and deliver it to that center. They will accept a maximum of 15 gallons of cooking oil per resident per visit.



Credit: Kondor83 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Properly Dispose of Batteries



Credit: Credit: jroballo | iStock | Getty Images Plus

You can help reduce the risk of fires by properly disposing of all household batteries at one of these locations:

- Fountain Valley City Hall, 10200 Slater Avenue
- Fountain Valley Recreation Center, 16400 Brookhurst Street
- Fountain Valley Senior Center, 17967 Bushard Street

All 9-volt battery terminals must be covered with tape.

Batteries are also accepted at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. The closest collection center for Fountain Valley residents is 17121 Nichols Lane, Gate 6, Huntington Beach.

## Bulk Item Pickup



The City of Fountain Valley and Republic Services provide residents with a convenient pickup option for bulk items and electronics.

**Single-Family Units:** By appointment, Republic Services provides pickup for large items at the curb. Residents may request up to four bulk item pickups at no charge during each calendar year. Each of these pickups is limited to 10 bulk items. Items should weigh no more than 40 pounds and be no more than 6 feet long. Additional paid bulk waste pickup is available year-round for a fee. To schedule this service, simply call Republic Services Customer Service at **714.847.3581** at least 48 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 the following regular collection day.

**Multi-Family Units and Commercial Premises:** For a fee, bulk item pickups are available by appointment. Call Republic Services at **714.847.3581** for details and to schedule.

# Environmentally Friendly Outdoor Parties



Credit: shapecharge | E+ | Getty Images

With the arrival of summer, barbecue season is here. It's time to take the festivities outdoors and host fun backyard parties. This summer, you can enjoy the company of family and friends while also making a positive impact on the environment, celebrating sustainably and responsibly. Here are some simple yet effective ways to host environmentally friendly backyard parties without compromising on fun and enjoyment.

excessive packaging when purchasing food and beverages. Choose products with recyclable packaging. If you are buying paper supplies, such as plates or napkins, be sure they are 100% fiber-based so they can be placed into your organics cart. Consider donating leftover, unopened, shelf-stable food to local charities. Compost leftover food scraps and food-soiled paper.

- Hydrate responsibly. You can stay hydrated and avoid single-serving plastic bottles. Provide water in large dispensers or pitchers and encourage guests to bring their own reusable water bottles. Offer refreshing infused water with fruits and herbs for a flavorful twist. Buy soft drinks in 2-liter or gallon-sized containers, and provide washable cups.

By incorporating environmentally friendly practices into your party planning, you can celebrate responsibly and inspire others to do the same. With a bit of creativity and conscious choices, every backyard gathering can become a celebration of both good times and environmental stewardship.

- Embrace sustainable décor to create a charming and inviting atmosphere. When decorating your backyard, opt for sustainable and reusable materials. Consider using solar-powered string or pathway lights. Repurpose, borrow or rent furniture. Mix and match washable napkins and tableware. Embrace nature's beauty by incorporating potted plants, flowers and natural elements.
- Reduce waste. Plan ahead so you can borrow or rent washable tablecloths, napkins and dishes, if needed. Set up clearly labeled recycling and composting bins next to trash cans. Avoid

# Safe Disposal for Hot Ashes and Charcoal

Charcoal and ashes should never be placed directly into your waste container. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety and health of the truck driver, waste and recycling facility workers, and the public.

Charcoal and ashes can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours, perhaps days, after you think the fire is out. As a safety precaution, treat all charcoal and ashes as hot. Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:



Credit: Kesu64 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, soak them in water and then wrap them in heavy-duty foil.
- Be sure there are no other combustible materials nearby.
- Do not place ashes and charcoal in your recycling and/or organics carts or dumpsters.

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let the ashes cool at least 48 hours.
- Wrap ashes in heavy-duty aluminum foil and place them in your trash cart or dumpster. (Keep container outdoors.)

# What Goes Where?

## ORGANICS

### Acceptable Items



\*You can place food in a paper bag.

### Unacceptable Items



## RECYCLE

### Acceptable Items (empty, clean and dry)



### Unacceptable Items



## TRASH

### Acceptable Items



### Unacceptable Items



# Holiday Collection Schedule

- 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)
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2024 (service delayed one day)



# Do You Run a Business?



**Organics:** Under AB 1826 and SB 1383, California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Organics recycling is now mandatory for all businesses and multi-family properties.

**Customer Recycling:** Under 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.

Under California law, recycling is mandatory at businesses and multi-family properties. If you operate a business or manage a property, here is what you need to know.

**Recyclables:** Assembly Bill (AB) 341 makes recycling mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of waste per week and multi-family properties with five or more units. SB 1383 expands this requirement to all businesses and properties, regardless of size. Businesses and properties must recycle paper, boxes, cans, bottles and containers.

You can learn more about all of these requirements at [CalRecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial](https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial). If you have questions about your business or multi-family recycling programs in Fountain Valley, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, contact Republic Services at **714.847.3581** or [Recycle437@RepublicServices.com](mailto:Recycle437@RepublicServices.com).

## Cart Placement

Place carts out by 7 a.m. on your collection day. All three carts are emptied on the same day but not by the same truck. Carts may be serviced at different times throughout the day. Drivers have until 6:30 p.m. to service the carts.

### Cart Placement Tips

- Place carts either in the street gutter, against the curb, in front of the premises or adjacent to the premises in the alley or easement in the rear of the premises.
- Place carts out prior to 7 a.m. on your regular collection day.
- Place carts with the lid openings facing toward the street.
- Place carts in a visible location at least 3 feet apart and 6 feet away from mailboxes, trees, basketball hoops, cars or other stationary objects.

### Why Wasn't My Cart Serviced?

These are some of the reasons why organics, recycling or waste may not be collected:

- Cart inaccessible
- Overfilled or overweight cart
- Insufficient space to service cart, such as car blocking cart
- Unacceptable contamination or hazardous waste found in cart
- Organics, recycling or waste placed in the incorrect cart
- Cart lid not closed flat
- Items placed outside the cart, either on the lid or on the ground



## Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with state law, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual contamination 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 contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the cart or dumpster identifying the incorrect items. 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.



## Concerts in the Park

Enjoy these four free concerts at the Fountain Valley Sports Park:

- July 6: Country Nation
- July 13: Stone Soul
- July 20: Bruno & The Hooligans
- July 27: Flashback Heart Attack

For more details, visit [FVCommunityFoundation.org](https://www.FVCommunityFoundation.org).

### Contact Us

17121 Nichols Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

714.847.3581

[Recycle437@RepublicServices.com](mailto:Recycle437@RepublicServices.com)

[RepublicServices.com/FountainValleyCA](https://www.RepublicServices.com/FountainValleyCA)



Sustainability in Action