



Residential Organics Recycling

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is changing with my curbside bins?

Orange County residents are required by law (SB 1383) to recycle organic waste beginning January 1, 2022. All residents will receive information from their waste hauler on the new changes, along with specific instructions and information. Your hauler will let you know exactly when the changes will happen in your neighborhood.

2. What is considered organic waste that may go into the organic waste bin?

Organic material comes from anything living – plants and animals. Organic waste includes grass clipping, leaves, twigs, shrubbery, weeds, and garden trimmings as usual. In general, foods that may now go into the organic waste bin include meat, fish, dairy, fruit, vegetable, bread, pasta, grains and plate scrapings.

3. Will I be getting another bin?

Residents will receive specific instructions from their waste hauler regarding any changes to existing bins. Changes are occurring on varying schedules and may require residents to place existing carts out for servicing. Keep an eye out for notices with your hauler billing, by mail and online, such as your hauler website or city page.

4. Will my bill change?

A variety of factors impact these new changes and may result in bill changes depending on your location and contracted waste hauler. You should have received information regarding any changes from your hauler.

5. What can I put in the organic waste/green bin?

Specific instruction may vary by hauler or city. Residents and business owners are encouraged to seek specific information from your waste hauler's website or by phone. The County of Orange provides hauler contracts to unincorporated areas. For service guides in County unincorporated areas, go to [OCLandfills.com/residential-organics-recycling](https://oclandfills.com/residential-organics-recycling).

6. Can I use plastic or compostable bags in the organic waste bin?

Each hauler has its own processes, so we recommend you read the information provided by your specific waste hauler. Many haulers are providing service guides, town halls and other mailings or website information to help answer these details.

7. What about odors or pests?

There are many optional measures residents can take to help reduce odors or pests. Haulers will provide information specific to the bins and service provided for your area. There are various resources available online including how to reduce food waste at home, freezing food for leftovers, or how to safely keep food waste stored until placing into your bins on your regularly scheduled pick up days.

8. Can I opt out of an organic waste bin?

No. This is mandated requirement by the State of California.

9. What happens if I do not sort or recycle my organic waste?

Haulers will be required to conduct audits to monitor contamination and report compliance of organic waste recycling. Most cities and haulers will be working with residents to help educate on proper organics recycling and may initially provide notifications as needed. All cities, special districts and unincorporated areas are required to meet state mandated compliance or risk financial penalties, which may result in fines to non-compliant residents or possible denial of service for contaminated bins.