



COUNTY OF ORANGE

Waste & Recycling

Our Community. Our Commitment.

Residential Organics Recycling Frequently Asked Questions

What is changing with my cart/bin?

Orange County residents are required by law Senate Bill 1383 to recycling organic waste. Your waste hauler has begun gradually making adjustments to your service to ensure compliance and minimize disruptions in your community. All residents should have already received information from their waste hauler regarding the new changes, along with specific instructions on how to sort their waste properly. To find the waste hauler for your area, a listing is available on our website at www.oclandfills.com/residential-haulers.

Keep an eye out for information regarding community meetings in your area, bill inserts from your waste hauler, and other information that may be sent by mail. Follow @OCWaste on Facebook, X, and Instagram for updates available from the county.

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.

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

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

Can paper or compostable containers/utensils go into the organic waste bin?

Paper products such as newspapers or lightly soiled napkins may be allowed in your organic waste bin. Your waste hauler will provide specific details on these items. For many waste haulers, compostable-labeled items and bags may not be accepted due to various processing-related reasons.

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

Waste haulers will be required to conduct audits to monitor contamination and report compliance with organic waste recycling. Most cities and haulers will work with residents to educate them 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.

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 clippings, 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, vegetables, breads, pastas, grains, and plate scrapings. Your waste hauler will provide very specific instructions.

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 on your waste hauler website or city page.

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

Specific instructions may vary by waste hauler or city. Residents and business owners are encouraged to seek specific information from their waste hauler's website or by phone. The County of Orange provides hauler contracts to unincorporated areas.

For residents who live in cities within OC, click the following link to view a list of <https://www.oclandfills.com/about-us/contact-us/residential-haulers-city-0>.

For business owners who operate within a city in OC, visit <https://www.oclandfills.com/haulers>.

What about odors or pests?

There are many optional measures residents can take to help reduce odors or pests. Waste 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, and how to safely store food waste until it is placed in your bins on your regularly scheduled pickup days.

Can I opt out of an organic waste bin?

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



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