

# RECYCLING PROGRAM

In its ongoing effort to fight climate change, California is focusing its efforts to reduce organic waste deposited into landfills. Why organic waste? When food and other organic materials decompose, methane gas is released which is a potent greenhouse gas emission pollutant.

California adopted Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) which requires communities to reduce organic waste disposal, such as food waste, by 75% by 2025. To achieve this mandate, the City of Ontario's Integrated Waste Department started a Food Waste Recycling program.

To help jump-start organics recycling at home, residential customers will receive a free kitchen pail for convenient food scrap collection. Please do not place food waste directly into the green waste barrel to prevent green waste contamination and avoid additional processing costs. Clear plastic bags are recommended but not required. The collection day will not change.

## ACCEPTABLE GREEN WASTE BARREL

- Grass Clippings
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Tree Trimmings
- Flowers
- Other Yard Waste
- Bagged Food Waste

## ACCEPTABLE FOOD WASTE PAIL

- Fruit
- Bread
- Fish
- Meat
- Vegetables
- Dairy

## NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Recyclables (Plastic, Metal, Glass)
- Styrofoam
- Pet Waste
- Palm Fronds
- Trash
- No liquids including grease, cooking oil, milk, or any other Liquid.

# TIPS FOR REDUCING FOOD WASTE AT HOME

Californians throw away nearly six million tons of food waste each year – that's 18 percent of all the materials that go to landfill. By managing food sustainably and reducing waste, you can save money, help curb global warming, conserve energy and resources for future generations. Below are a few ways to help you get started.

## PLANNING TIPS

- Plan your meals for the week before you go shopping and buy only the things needed for those meals. Will you be eating out at all this week? Be sure to factor in any meals you will be eating outside the home.
- Keep a list of meals and their ingredients that your family enjoys. This makes it easy to choose, shop for, and prepare meals.
- Shop your kitchen first! Plan your meals around the ingredients you have at home and look in your refrigerator and cupboards to avoid buying food you already have.
- Buy only what you need and will use. Buying in bulk only saves money if you can use the food before it spoils.

## STORAGE TIPS

- Freeze, preserve, or can extra fruits and vegetables – especially abundant seasonal produce.
- Store bananas, apples, and tomatoes by themselves and store fruits and vegetables in different bins. Many of these foods give off natural gases as they ripen, making other nearby produce spoil faster.
- Prefer buying in bulk? Use a vacuum sealer to help prolong the shelf life of your food.
- Prepare and cook perishable items, then freeze them for use throughout the month – this works well for chicken breasts, taco meat, bread, or sliced fruit.

## CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR: PAUL S. LEON

MAYOR PRO TEM: ALAN D. WAPNER

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JIM W. BOWMAN  
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CITY MANAGER: SCOTT OCHOA



# Residential Food Waste RECYCLING PROGRAM



**CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 1383  
(SB 1383) REQUIRES COMMUNITIES TO  
REDUCE ORGANIC WASTE DISPOSAL, SUCH  
AS FOOD WASTE, BY 75% BY 2025.**

# How to use YOUR FOOD WASTE PAIL



Keep your food waste pail in a convenient location in your kitchen, such as on your counter under your sink or other preferred location.



Pail should be lined with a plastic bag.

Remember, your food waste pail is **DISHWASHER SAFE!** 2.6 gallon bags or liners can be bought online or at a local store.



Collect food waste in your pail. Scrape food scraps and leftovers into your pail. Spoiled or stale food can also be placed in the pail.

Liquids can speed up the decomposition of food and weaken bags. Be sure to drain excess liquids before placing food waste in the pail.



When the pail is full, remove the bag, tie it and place it in your green waste barrel which is collected weekly on your normal collection day.

**Do NOT place the food waste pail outside for collection or place loose food waste in your green waste barrel.**

## Food Waste FAQ's

### Why is the City of Ontario's Integrated Waste Department doing this?

Senate Bill 1383 requires the cities and counties to reduce organic waste [food waste, green waste, paper products, etc.] disposal by 75% by 2025. State enacted SB 1383, which is designed to reduce the global warming gasses like methane, which are the most potent and are "short-lived". Reducing this gas now, through actions like organic waste recycling will significantly reduce emissions and will reduce the impacts of climate change in our lifetime.

### Is everyone participating?

Yes, meeting California's ambitious goals will require expanded organic recycling requirements for both residential and commercial customers.

### How much will this cost?

The program is free of charge for residential barrel customers.

### Will bags be supplied to line the food waste pail?

No. The bags must be purchased by the customer.

### What type of bags can be used?

Clear plastic bags are recommended but not required. Residents may also repurpose other types of bags such as tortilla, bread, grocery bags.

### Why are clear bags preferred over non-clear?

Clear bags allow staff to see the content of the bags easily. Seeing the content helps to sort appropriately.

### What is the benefit in doing this?

Your participation is a contribution to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, and address food insecurity in California.

### I backyard compost, do I have to participate?

We encourage you to continue composting but all non-compostable food waste items, such as meat, bones and dairy products, can be recycled through this program.

### What if the food waste pail bag rips?

Try to place the food waste inside another bag, secure it, and place it inside your green waste barrel.

### How can I clean the food waste pail?

The pail can be hand washed. Keep in mind it is also dishwasher friendly. We recommend wiping it down before adding a new liner for optimum results.

### How often should I clean the food waste pail?

Wash the pail regularly.

### How do I reduce food waste odors?

Sprinkle baking soda in the pail to reduce odor.

### Who collects the material & when is it picked up?

The food waste will be collected along with your green waste barrel. The food waste will be picked up once a week on your regular service day.

### Where does the food waste go?

The food waste will be sent to an organics processing waste facility where it will be composted or used as feedstock for anaerobic digestion.

### Who would I contact for service questions or concerns?

Customers can contact Integrated Waste Department at (909) 395-2040 or email [customerservice@ontarioca.gov](mailto:customerservice@ontarioca.gov)