



Can You Turn A Banana Peel Into A Carrot?

A special treat!

Yep! It's not magic, just a little plant science. Here's how to do it.

- 1 Peel a banana—maybe have a banana split!
- 2 Pull the banana peel apart until the strips separate.
- 3 Find a potting container and fill it with soil to a few inches below the top.
- 4 Water the soil, put the banana peel strips in it and put carrot seeds on top, 1 inch apart.
- 5 Cover the seeds with ½ inch of soil, and water gently every few days to keep soil moist. The banana peel will feed the carrots! (Follow growing directions on the seed packet.)

Wait a few weeks and enjoy eating your carrot!



TIP

If you have a green organics cart, put your banana peel in it. We'll compost it for you and your banana will become food for the fruits and vegetables you eat!



1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 320
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



Demian

A Phone Call Saves the Day

Recycling is great!

"People weren't actually sure we had recycling." That's Avalon Walnut Ridge resident Demian Hardman talking about his 466-unit condo complex a while ago. "The trash was really overflowing."

Property manager CJ Bass confirms that the maintenance crew had spent hours several times a week taking cardboard boxes out of the garbage and breaking them down. "Trash was piling up, a couple of feet above the enclosure. People couldn't even get to the recycling bin."

Demian acted. "I got the property manager to call Republic Services. They came to us and brought solutions." Republic provided signage, did an email education campaign about recycling and provided free recycling totes. "The best thing was adding small blue recycling bins by the mailboxes for junk mail,"

Demian says. And the residents (many Millennials who order tons of stuff online) are on board, breaking down their boxes and putting them in the blue recycling bins.

"First, we scheduled two recycling pickups a week," says CJ. "Then we realized the trash was fine, but the recycling was overflowing, so we went to three pickups. We're considering four!"

And the garbage? Only two pickups a week. "We now have more recycling than we do trash," Demian says, "and my garbage bill hasn't increased at all!"



Rewarded with \$2,500 Scholarships

RecycleSmart, in partnership with Mt. Diablo Recycling, started the student scholarship program in 2015 to inspire and reward student leaders who have made significant contributions to reducing waste at their high schools. This year \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to:



Dara Feller

Acalanes High School

Dara boosted campus-wide education with her music video "Responsible Waste." "It's not confusing. The bin that you are choosing. Cuz now you've got this music in your head." Yes, we do! Search for it on YouTube.



Pedram Majbuleh

Las Lomas High School

Pedram expanded the compost collection program and spearheaded a lunchtime recycling and composting program. Because lunch isn't over until you compost.



Connor Sinclair

San Ramon Valley High School

Connor managed the campus can and bottle recycling program. He promoted reuse by encouraging students to bring reusable bottles rather than tossing single-use bottles.

Each of these students worked hard on the environmental "4 R's" for schools: reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. Our thanks and congratulations!

Is your blue bin or dumpster full, even overflowing? Get larger bins, get more pickups! No extra charge! Ask your property manager to call Republic Services and they'll get right on it: 925-685-4711.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
CONCORD, CA
PERMIT NO. 122

EVERYDAY RECYCLING MADE EASY

RecycleSmart

APARTMENTS & CONDOS EDITION

FALL 2016

What do those ♻️'s mean?

It's all in the numbers. Plastics are made of many different chemicals. The little "chasing arrow" triangles contain a number code that identifies which chemicals were used to create that container. Not all plastics are recyclable *but* RecycleSmart will take them all and do the sorting for you—just give them a little wipe clean first.



PET Polyethylene Terephthalate

One of the most common plastics; used for soft drinks and water bottles, salad bottles and peanut butter jars.

RECYCLED INTO: Polar fleece, polyester fiber, carpet, tote bags and sometimes new containers.



HDPE High-Density Polyethylene

Stiffer plastic; used for milk jugs, detergent and cooking oil bottles, shampoo bottles and yogurt tubs.

RECYCLED INTO: New bottles, floor tile, plastic pipe, plastic lumber, park benches and truck bed-liners.



PVC Polyvinyl Chloride

Softer but firm plastic; used for child and pet toys, plumbing pipes and larger cooking oil bottles.

RECYCLED INTO: Deck and building materials.



LDPE Low-Density Polyethylene

Filmy plastic used in shrink-wrap, dry cleaner bags and squeezable bottles.

Place clean plastic bags together in one plastic bag, in the blue bin.

RECYCLED INTO: Trash can liners, shipping envelopes, floor tiles and compost bins.



PP Polypropylene

Tough and lightweight; used for cereal box liners, plastic bottle tops, yogurt containers and ketchup bottles.

RECYCLED INTO: Brooms, ice scrapers, signal signs, cafeteria trays, pallets and auto battery cases.



PS Rigid Plastics & Polystyrene

Ultra lightweight used for take out containers, foam packaging and styrofoam trays and rigid plastic such as compact disk cases.

Please do not put polystyrene (styrofoam) in the blue recycling bin; place in black landfill bin.



Other BPA, Polycarbonate and LEXAN

Mixed plastics found in sippy cups, water cooler bottles, iPod cases, and sunglasses.

RECYCLED INTO: Plastic lumber.

Leadership Award!

Sustainable Contra Costa has honored RecycleSmart with the 2016 Leadership in Sustainability Award for "Sustainable Resource Management," citing our comprehensive organics and recycling programs for residents, businesses and schools.





5 Recycling Myths

1 Pizza boxes, paper towels and napkins are paper so they go in the blue recycling bin.

Nope. They're often contaminated with food and grease and can't be reused as paper. They can go in a green organics bin if you have one, or the black landfill bin if you don't.

2 Styrofoam should go in the blue recycling bin.

Nope. Unfortunately, Styrofoam should go in the black landfill bin; it is not easily recyclable.

3 Throw plastic bags away; they can't be recycled.

Nope. They can be recycled! Just put clean plastic bags in one plastic bag, right into the blue recycling bin.

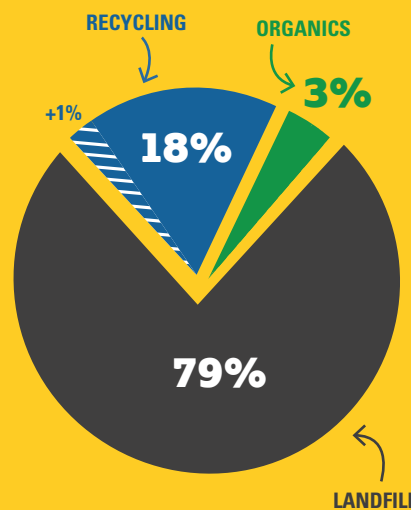
4 It's best to put food waste down the garbage disposal.

Nope. Food and grease can clog pipes and cause backups and sewer spills. Prime cloggers are cheese, gravy, salad dressing and meats. Plus, it takes a lot of resources and energy to remove all of the food waste at the water treatment plant. If you don't have a green organics cart, it's actually best to put food in your trashcan or black landfill bin.

5 I need to wash all the bottles and containers before I recycle them.

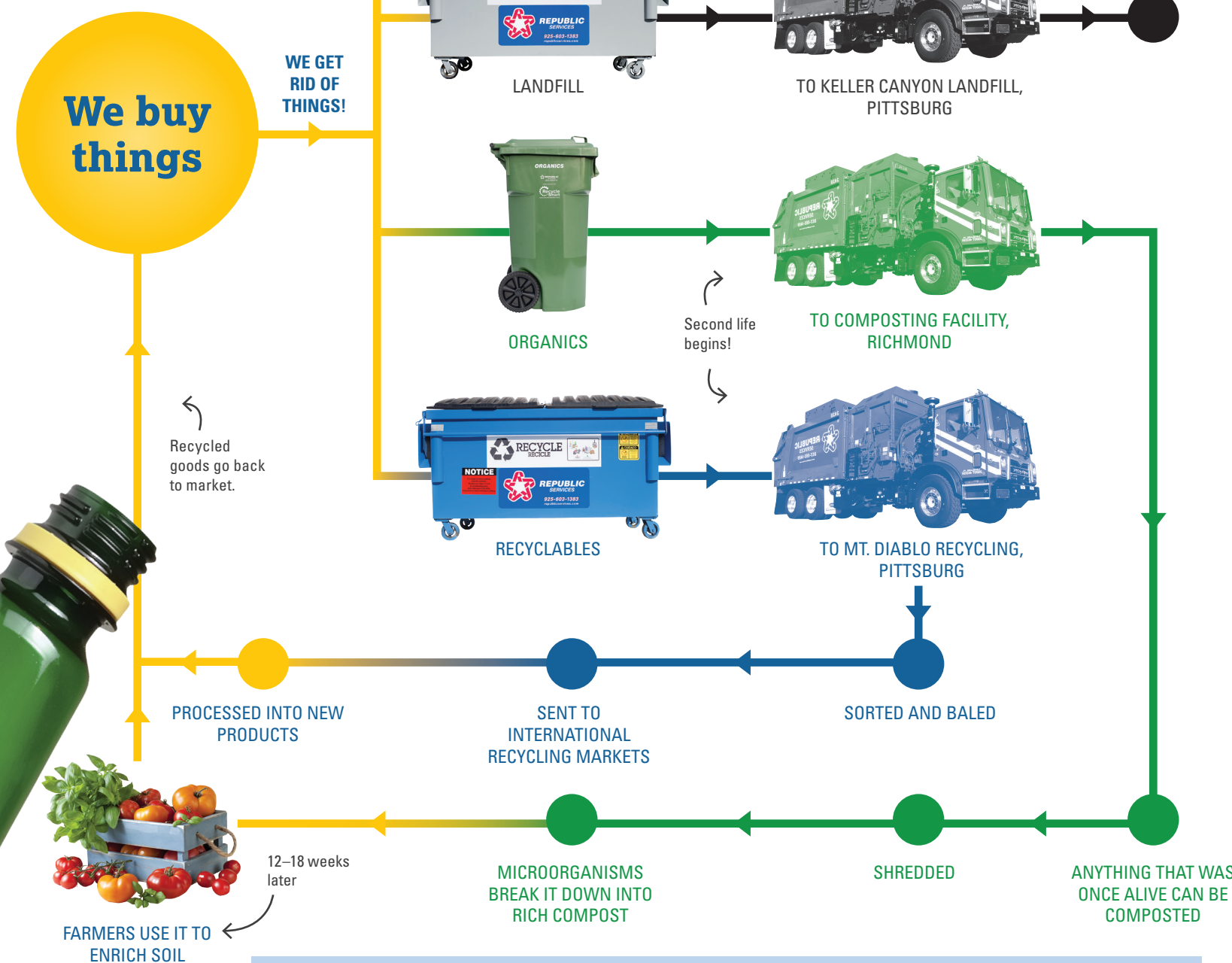
Nope. Just make sure they're empty and fairly clean—use a spoon, spatula or napkin to clean out the container (and compost the napkin in your green organics cart if you have one).

What's in Our Apartment and Condo Bins?



We send more than three-fourths (79%) of our waste directly to landfill. But, most of that stuff isn't really trash! The main culprits: Cardboard and paper boxes, loose papers, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Making the recycling pie slice just 1% larger would be like taking 1,180 cars off the road every year.

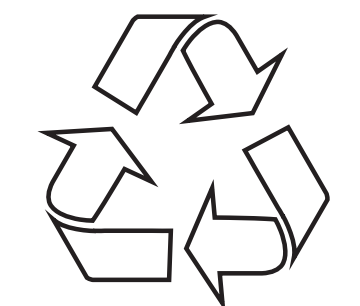
How it works



Color the recycling!



RecycleSmart.org



Need More Info?

RecycleSmart

www.RecycleSmart.org
925-906-1801
Authority@RecycleSmart.org

Republic Services

Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services about additional recycling, organic or landfill carts or bins, computer and TV collection, special clean ups or to request motor oil recycling kits, recycling tote bags and kitchen food scrap containers.



Printed on paper made from responsibly harvested wood with 50% recycled content (25% post-consumer); processed chlorine free.



ONE PERSON'S TRASH IS... ACTUALLY A TREASURE!

Over 70 percent of the materials in California landfills could be recycled or composted and used again, according to CalRecycle. Which means **Californians throw away over 20 million tons of recyclable materials every year.**

Landfills can contaminate the soil, groundwater and aquifers below them and produce methane, a greenhouse gas that is 56 times more destructive than carbon dioxide. Just a little more recycling can have a big impact.