



Dried Flower Power!

Before you drop them in the green organics cart or your home worm bin, turn your spring blooms into beautiful dried flower bouquets! Dry them now and enjoy them for seasons to come.

Here are two ways to dry flowers:

Air Dry:

- Tie up flower stems and hang them—either each stem on its own or as a bouquet—upside down for a few days.
- If you hang them away from a wall (which can flatten them) and out of direct sunlight, they'll keep their natural shape and color.

Food Dehydrator:

- If you have a food dehydrator, you can also use it to dry flowers! Set it to about 100 degrees, and place the flowers so they don't overlap with one another. (Kids, ask your parents for help!)

Once your flowers are dried, there are lots of ways to enjoy them for yourself or to give as gifts to your friends and family: press them into a clear phone case, make framed monogram art or even display them, dried, in a vase!

Send photos of your dried flower art to Authority@RecycleSmart.org



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The dirt on compost
- Crafts from flower bouquets
- Take our food scraps pledge!

Marian's guide to compost

Want to know how you can start composting at home? Ask RecycleSmart! We have a variety of composting workshops available for you to learn how to get your plants thriving.

If you sign up, you might meet Marian Woodard, a RecycleSmart composting instructor who has worked with countless residents on their composting journeys.

"Composting is a small way we can give back to the earth," she said. "It is a way to honor what we eat and the work that goes into maintaining healthy plants."

Here are some of Marian's tips to get you started:

- **Start small.** Ask your property manager for a free kitchen food scraps pail and



Meet the RecycleSmart compost team!

Left to right: Marian, Billi and Lorraine



Share the (Fruit) Wealth

Here's a chance to pick fresh fruit locally to help provide healthy food to your community. Register with Contra Costa Fruit Rescue! This organization uses local volunteers to pick (glean) fruit and donate it to local food recovery organizations, food pantries, shelters and the food bank. Find out more or sign up to volunteer at Forestr.org/fruit-rescue

LET'S GET SOCIAL

We share tips and info about our services, ways to reduce waste and so much more on our social media. Give us a follow @Recyclesmartorg (Instagram) and @CCCSWA (Facebook).

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EVERYDAY RECYCLING MADE EASY

RecycleSmart

APARTMENTS & CONDOS EDITION

WINTER 2023

The organics issue

This winter was wet and wild—with winds and rain wreaking havoc on our patios and gardens.

Now that the storms have settled, it's time to take stock and clear away the broken branches, wet leaves and other debris left in the wake.

Your green organics cart is where you should dispose your food scraps. But did you know that plant trimmings can also go into your green organics cart?

Yes! Your green organics cart happily accepts certain kinds of plant trimmings and debris:

- Flower cuttings
- House plants (please shake extra dirt off)
- Vines (NO poison oak)
- Cacti
- Untreated wood less than 4' long and 6" in diameter
- Plant trimmings
- Leaves
- Wood chips

Adding plant trimmings to your green organics cart reduces the amount of organic material that goes to the landfill, which helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More about that inside.

If you notice that the green cart is more full lately, call your property manager to get an additional cart! There's no additional cost to add another cart or more frequent collections.

Read on to find more tips like the ones above and get excited for sunnier days ahead.



COMING UP!

Mark your calendar! International Compost Awareness Week is May 7-13! The theme this year is: **For Healthier Soil, Healthier Food...Compost!** Also, this year's **Compost Giveaway** dates are **April 22** and **May 6**. Learn more at RecycleSmart.org/ICAW





Keeping communal spaces clean

Trash enclosures at multifamily properties can be a tricky place to navigate. We are here to take the guesswork out with these simple practices:

1. If you need additional blue recycling bins, green organics carts or more frequent pickups, we can help with that! Your property owner or manager can call Republic Services at 925-685-4711 to request additional recycling and organics services—it's free!
2. Bulky items may prevent your bins from being serviced. If you have bulky items that you want to get rid of, your property owner or manager can schedule pickup services for a fee by calling Republic Services at 925-685-4711.
3. Use local drop-off facilities for cardboard boxes, e-waste, hazardous waste, bulky items and trash.

- Concord Recycling Center:
ConcordRecyclingCenter.com
- Central Sanitary District Hazardous Waste Facility, Martinez: **CentralSan.org/hhw**
- Contra Costa Transfer and Recovery Station, Martinez: **951 Waterbird Way, Martinez**

Or post your usable items on your local "Buy Nothing" network on Facebook.

4. RecycleSmart has free resources for multifamily residents: reusable recycling totes for easy transport to your enclosure, small kitchen food scrap pails, sorting guides, outdoor enclosure signage and bin stickers—as well as technical assistance and presentations!

Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services at 925-685-4711 or email authority@recyclesmart.org

Need More Info?



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For tips, resources and other recycling services!

www.RecycleSmart.org
925-906-1801
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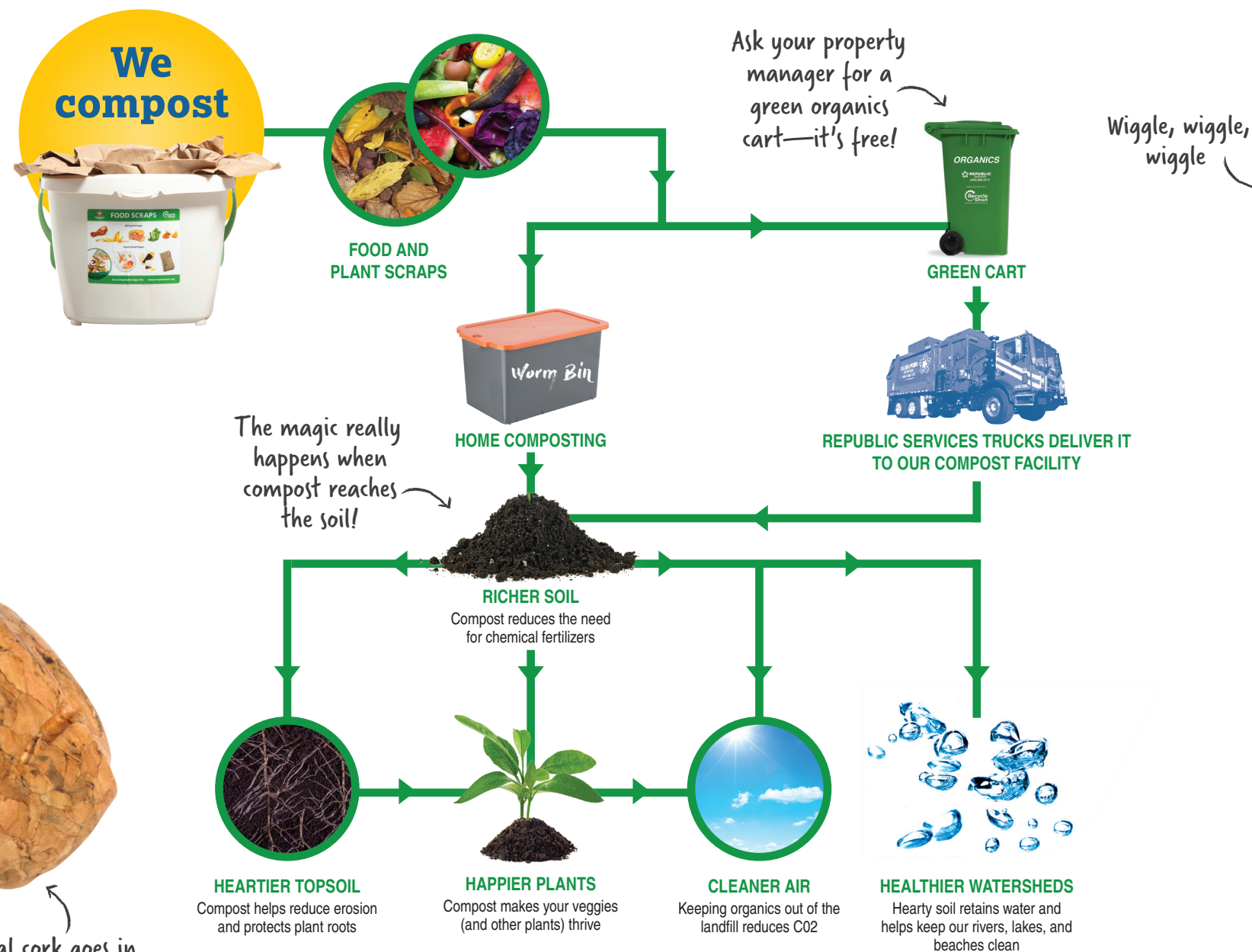
Organics, Recycling and Landfill
925-685-4711

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

This newsletter is recyclable!

Breaking it down

Using compost has so many benefits, both to your plants and the larger environment!



"WE DON'T TRASH FOOD" PLEDGE

I pledge to tell a family member, friend, co-worker or neighbor that food is not trash, and that all food scraps can go in the green organics cart.

When you share information with your community, the message grows.

Go to RecycleSmart.org/greencartsmart or use the QR code to pledge and spread the word.



My Tips

Vermicompost: Let Worms do the Work

Gene S., Walnut Creek

Part of my resolution for this year is to do a better job with my food scraps, so I started vermicomposting, or worm composting. It's similar to backyard composting, except that it uses manure worms (or red wigglers!) to help break down soft organic material like food scraps. Plus, you don't need much space for one!

I used a 14-gallon plastic storage bin. Once I got it set up, it kind of runs itself! I can't wait to use the leftover worm castings and worm "tea" to feed my plants.

My tip for readers: You can buy a worm bin or make it yourself. I found lots of info—how to build and maintain my worm bin, what kinds of foods to use, and how to harvest worm castings—at RecycleSmart.org/WormComposting and now I'm set!

Who's with me?



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org