

State Laws for Businesses

CA State Law SB 1383 and RecycleSmart’s Organics Reduction Ordinance (21-1). Composting organics is now the law in California! Organic material accounts for more than half of California’s waste stream. Greenhouse gas emissions caused by the decomposition of organic material in landfills contribute to climate change.

All businesses are required to:

- Separate from trash all recyclables and organics, including all food scraps, uncoated food-soiled paper and landscape trimmings.
- Annually educate employees on how to separate organics and recyclables, and how to properly sort all materials.
- Place recycling and organics containers in all areas where landfill containers are present (except restrooms), with proper signage.
- Certain food-generating businesses are required to donate excess edible food to feed people. Visit RecycleSmart.org/FoodGenerators.
- If you self/back haul your recycling and/or organics, your business is required to maintain records. Visit RecycleSmart.org/Recycling-Reporting.
- Certain businesses may be eligible for an organics-only waiver. Visit RecycleSmart.org/Recycling-Reporting.



For additional compliance information, visit RecycleSmart.org/1383 or use the QR code.

SB 1383 also requires local jurisdictions to monitor contamination and proper sorting by performing annual route audits. RecycleSmart or its contractors may be in the area assessing your carts and bins.

Free Technical Assistance and Resources

For free in-person assistance, including employee, tenant and custodial training contact a Republic Services Sustainability Advisor at 925.671.5860 or email SustainabilityAdvisors@RepublicServices.com.

For free resources including signs, posters and training videos visit, RepublicServices.com/recyclesmartca.

Scan this QR code to watch and share this training video about how to recycle and compost at offices and workspaces.



Overflowing Containers

Lids must be completely closed or your business may be charged for overages.

E-Waste

Call Republic Services to schedule a pick-up for a fee, or take most electronics to Concord Recycling or Rapid Recycle for FREE. Visit RecycleSmart.org/hhw.

Bulky Items

Disposing of large appliances and other bulky items in or near your bins is not permitted, and may cause access and safety issues for service. You can schedule special pick-up services (rates vary by item) by calling Republic Services at 925.685.4711, or check out local business reuse, repair and thrift resources at RecycleSmart.org/reuse.



Hazardous Waste

Eligible businesses can take paint, fluorescent bulbs, chemicals and other hazardous materials to Central San’s Hazardous Waste Facility located at 4797 Imhoff Place in Martinez **for a fee**. Visit CentralSan.org/hhw.

Batteries

Batteries contain hazardous materials that start fires and are harmful to the environment. Drop off batteries **for free** at a convenient retail partner. Visit RecycleSmart.org/hhw.

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PERMIT NO. 122

Republic Services of Contra Costa County
441 N. Buchanan Circle, Pacheco, CA 94553
925.685.4711 | RepublicServices.com/RecycleSmartCA



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Código QR para
traducción al
español



PF838 | 2026
Organics



Business Service Guide



Landfill

Recycling

Organics

Yes

Plastic Utensils
Plastic Packaging
Compostable & Biodegradable Plastic Food Service Ware
Juice Pouches
Chip Bags
Snack Wrappers
Broken Dishware
Expanded Polystyrene Foam
Diapers
Pet Waste
Receipts
Coated Paper Food Cartons
Plastic (Without a Recycling Number)
Non-Usable Textiles
Mixed Materials (two or more different materials combined together)

No

Food Scraps
Uncoated Food Soiled Paper
Landscape Trimmings
Recyclables
Electronics
Medical Needles/Sharps
Medicine
Batteries
Fluorescent Bulbs
Motor Oil/Filters
Hazardous Waste
Hot Ash
Chemicals

Yes

Empty, Clean, and Dry™
(#1-7) Plastic Containers
Bundled Plastic Bags
Metal Containers
Aluminum Foil
Glass Bottles and Jars
Clean Paper (If shredded, put in clear bag)
Dry and Broken Down Cardboard

No

Food Scraps
Food-Soiled Paper and Containers
Garbage
Paper Towels
Paper Plates
Organics
Wood
Expanded Polystyrene Foam
Hazardous Waste
Batteries
Electronics
Plastic Utensils

Recyclables should be loose (no bags) or in paper bags

Yes

Small Twigs and Branches (less than 4' in length and 6" in diameter)
Yard Trimmings
Uncoated Food-Soiled Paper (including napkins, paper towels, paper plates, pizza boxes)
Raw and Cooked Food, Leftovers, To-Go Food
Fruits and Vegetables (raw and cooked)
Dairy Products
Breads
Meat and Seafood (including bones and shells)
Clean Wood (lumber, chop sticks, skewers; no paint, stain, or coating.)

No

Plastic
Glass
Metal
Dirt
Pet Waste
Diapers
Plastic Food Containers
Compostable & Biodegradable Plastic
Expanded Polystyrene Foam
Treated or Painted Wood
Coated Food-Soiled Paper (including paper cups, cartons, clamshells, and takeout boxes that appear shiny)
Palm Leaves

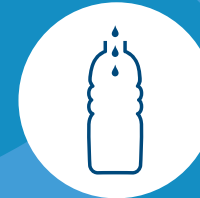
Organics should be loose (no bags) or in paper or BPI-certified compostable bags

Empty, Clean, and Dry Recycling

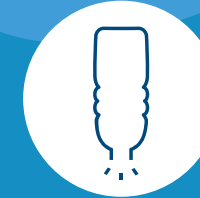
If your recycling or organics cart/bin is contaminated with unacceptable materials, it may not be serviced and your business may be charged a go-back fee.



Empty. Remove any remaining food or liquid.



Clean. Wipe or lightly rinse the item.



Dry. Shake out excess moisture or air dry.



Sign Maker Tool

Use our new online tool to quickly create custom printable signs for your recycling, organics, and landfill containers. Visit RecycleSmart.org/signmaker or scan this QR Code.



Important:

Compostable plastics such as cold cups and utensils **do not break down** completely. All compostable plastics should go in the black landfill cart or bin. Only BPI-Certified compostable bags to contain food scraps are accepted in the green organics cart.

