



Kid's
Corner

Building a Worm Farm

Worms are easy pets and a great way to get involved in composting at home! This composting method is ideal for smaller spaces. Your potted plants will love the worm castings.

Supplies:

- An adult helper
- Drill and 1/4" drill bit
- Two same-sized, dark-colored plastic storage bins (we recommend 14 gal) and one lid
- Red wiggler composting worms
- Shredded uncoated paper (newspaper, if you have some!)
- Food scraps—1/4 to 1/2 cup only
- Water



"Feed me to your worms!"

Instructions:

- 1 Ask an adult to help you with this step: Drill lots of holes—up to 50!—in the bottom of one tub (this will be the “inner” tub). Drill several holes near the very top of the inner bin for air.
- 2 Place the bin with holes into the other bin. There should be a small gap between the bins—add a brick or some rocks, if needed, to separate them.
- 3 Fill the top bin about halfway: moist paper shreds, and food scraps. Then add the worms!
- 4 Worms prefer a cool, dark environment, so place the lid on top to keep them contained and stay cool.
- 5 About once a week, add a cup or so of veggie peels, coffee grounds, leaves, or crushed egg shells, to feed your worms.
- 6 If your worms are running out of space, gift some worms to your neighbors and friends to start their own worm farm.



To learn more about worm composting, like where to buy worms and their favorite food scraps, visit RecycleSmart.org/WormComposting



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See the Future, Sort Today!

Lily Dang from Moraga is our latest poster art contest winner. A student at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Lily created this poster for our “Five R’s” truck sign contest.

The signs are being installed now! Lily’s artwork will be on many of the trucks in the RecycleSmart service area starting in the next couple of months.

Congratulations to Lily! Keep an eye out for her inspiring artwork whenever you see a Republic Services garbage truck.

BE A WINNER!

In addition to our winter poster contest and scholarship for graduating seniors, RecycleSmart hosts an array of resources for teachers and students on our websites.

We provide free recycling and organics containers, signs and stickers, lesson plans, school assemblies and field trips, and many other resources. Plus, we recognize schools that significantly reduce waste with awards of up to \$1,500!

Visit anytime at RecycleSmart.org/schools



APARTMENTS AND CONDOS EDITION

SPRING 2026

Leave No Trace Camping Trips

It’s camping season! You’re probably familiar with the camping philosophy “Leave No Trace,” which offers guidance on how to keep wilderness areas unspoiled. But there are ways to “Leave No Trace” as we prepare for our trips here at home, too!

- **Refill your fuel.** An important way to make communities cleaner and safer is to buy refillable propane containers, and fill them up as needed. No more trekking to the HHW facility with your empty containers! You can find shops that sell refillables here: RefuelYourFun.org/Maps-Events. *Single-use propane cylinders should never go into any of your carts or bins. They cause explosions in collection trucks and at recycling facilities.*
- **Pro tip!** Sports Basement in Walnut Creek offers free 1 lb. propane refills if you join their membership community.
- **Borrow, don’t buy.** Need a backpack or sleeping bag? Ask a friend, a local buy nothing group, or rent at a sports store!
- **Use it or lose it.** If you have supplies you’re not using, take them to a consignment store, gear swap, or offer them to a neighbor or friend.
- **Pack less packaging.** Ditch the plastic pouches by prepping your camping meals at home. Then take your reusable containers back home with you.
- **Maximize your water.** Ditch single-use plastic water bottles and opt for a 5-gallon reusable container (and reusable cups and bottles to use on your trip!).
- **Sort it yourself.** Bring your own pop-up containers for recyclables and trash.

All of these make our impact lighter and our time outside brighter. Here’s to a wonderful outdoor summer!



"Refill me!"



"Refill me too!"



Give single-use
the boot!



RecycleSmart.org



Friction-free Food Scraps

Your pail is your pal! Place it on your counter for an easy reminder to compost as you cook. Putting food scraps in your pail gives your in-sink garbage disposal—and your pipes—a much-needed break. You'll also be doing your part to reduce those harmful greenhouse gas emissions!

You can dump food scraps directly into the pail or line it with a paper bag (no plastic!). When your pail is full, empty it into the communal green cart to reduce unnecessary landfill (see the chart on the right).

Don't have a pail? Request a free one from your property manager!

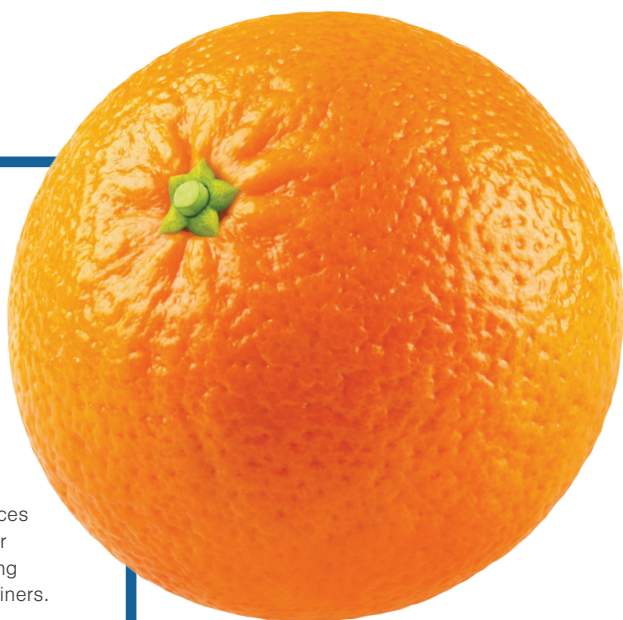


IN MEMORY OF THE MUFFIN MAN

Dedicated to feeding the hungry, Moraga resident Jack Dice spent 19 years bringing surplus food from Contra Costa grocery stores and bakeries to Oakland food banks and shelters. He was instrumental in forming the all-volunteer food rescue group, Muffin People.

Jack's efforts to recover edible food that may have otherwise been thrown away and provide that food to local community members preceded California state law by nearly two decades—proving his remarkable commitment and compassion.

All of us at RecycleSmart are inspired by Jack's dedication to improving the lives of others. If you'd like to get involved, visit RecycleSmart.org/Food-Recovery



Need more info?



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For tips, resources and other recycling services!

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Organics, Recycling and Landfill

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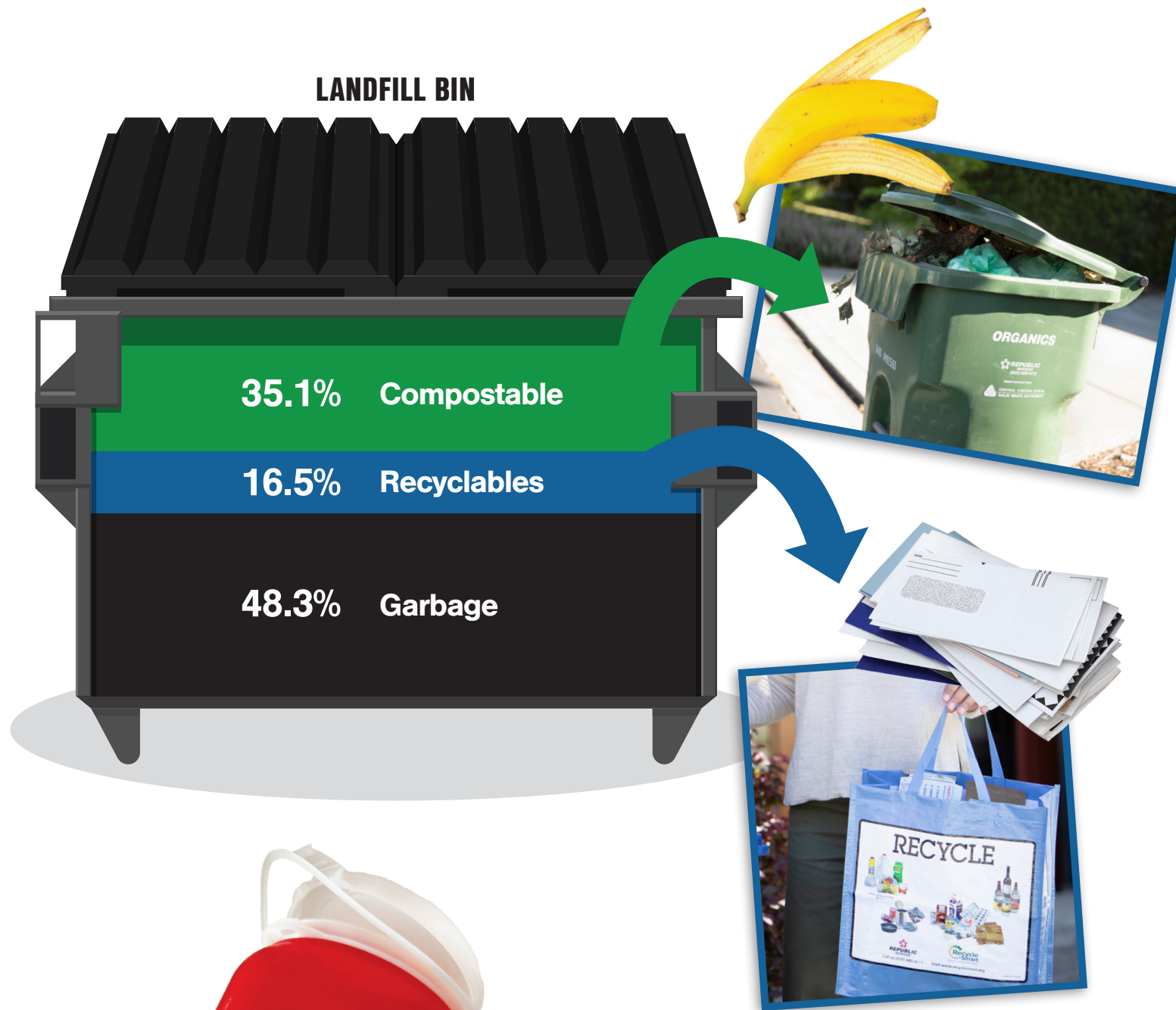
Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services about additional recycling, organic and landfill carts or bins, special clean ups or to request motor oil recycling kits, recycling tote bags and kitchen food scrap containers.

This newsletter is recyclable!

How Are We Doing?

RecycleSmart, with grant funding from CalRecycle, conducted a waste study at our transfer station last fall to see how our sorting is going. According to the data, there's room (in our bins) for improvement—**over 50% of the items found in landfill could be recycled or composted.**

Please make sure food scraps and other greenery goes in the green organics cart and your empty, clean, and dry cans, containers, and cardboard go into the blue recycling bin. The more we can divert those items to recycling and compost, the longer our current landfill will last. Need an easier way to carry your items from inside to your property waste enclosure? Call your property manager to request a handy recycling tote or food scraps pail.



Needles and all other types of medical sharps don't belong in any of your bins or carts! Instead they go in a sharps waste container like this one.

Get your own mail-back container at no cost at SharpsTakeBackCalifornia.org



Don't Trash Your Towels

Genevieve P., Danville

Dear RecycleSmart,

“With my little ones' messes, I used to go through so many paper towels. I love that I can put paper towels with food messes in the organics cart, but lately I've been switching to reusables. Here are my tips:

- Get a reusable Swedish dishcloth at Planet Renu in Walnut Creek. I love the cute designs on them.
- Use old towels, t-shirts, or other absorbent fabrics as rags. No need for new.
- If paper towels aren't negotiable, invest in recycled! There are 30% and 100% recycled types available. *Just make sure you don't put paper towels with cleaning chemicals (like bleach!) in the organics cart; those go in the landfill bin.

These small switches to my household routine have made me feel better about my environmental impact.

Thank you!



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org