

Recycling Food Waste at Home



As required by state law Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), Waste Management (WM) has launched an organic recycling program in partnership with the City of Chino Hills. As of July 1, all food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings must be placed together in your green lid organics cart. To help collect food scraps in your kitchen and transfer them to your organics waste cart, WM has provided each Chino Hills residential household with a kitchen food waste pail. These pails reduce the air moisture and odor-causing bacteria.

How to Use Your Kitchen Food Waste Pail

1. Keep your food pail on the kitchen countertop or under the sink. Placing your pail in a visible area will help you remember to recycle your organics.
2. Place food scraps or your leftover food-soiled paper items directly into the pail. The pail can be used as is or lined with a paper bag or newspaper. Do not use plastic bags of any type, even if they are labeled as biodegradable or compostable. Compostable cups, plates, or utensils are also not acceptable.
3. Scrape food prep scraps and leftovers from your plate or cutting board into your pail. Spoiled or stale food from your fridge and cupboards can also be placed in the pail.
4. Empty your pail directly into your organics cart. **DO NOT** place your small food waste pail out on collection day. Only the full-size organics cart should be placed at the curb.



Acceptable Items

- Breads & grains
- Coffee grounds
- Food soiled paper
- Fruits & vegetables
- Meat, fish, & dairy
- Leftover food
- Yard waste (grass, leaves, brush, & tree branches)



Non-Acceptable Items

- Branches larger than 3" in diameter
- Dirt, stone, concrete, or rock
- Fats, oil, or grease
- Palm fronds or yuccas
- Pet waste
- Plastic items & bags (even those labeled compostable or biodegradable)



Minimize the use of your garbage disposal

Garbage disposals increase waste that has to be treated at wastewater treatment plants, can clog sewer lines, and increase the amount of water used in your home.

Tips for Preventing Odor and Pests

There are easy things you can do to keep your food pail and organics waste cart odor and pest free:

Indoors

- **Avoid placing liquids** inside your food pail
- **Cut up citrus or bell peppers** to keep smells away
- **Empty your food pail** every day or every couple of days into your organics cart
- **Line your food pail** with a paper bag or newspaper to reduce having to clean it out so often
- **Sprinkle the inside with baking soda** to help absorb moisture and smells
- **Freeze or refrigerate** meat, fish, and dairy scraps before adding them to the organic waste cart on collection day

Outdoors

- **Place food waste** in a paper bag
- **Layer items** like yard trimmings, newspaper, or a soiled pizza box on the bottom of your organics cart before discarding your food waste pail
- **Place your organics cart out on the curb** every week for service no matter how minimal to avoid pests and bugs
- **Rinse** your cart as needed



Frequently Asked Questions

What is organic waste?

Organic waste is any material that is biodegradable and comes from a plant or animal except for pet waste. Pet waste should be discarded in your black lid trash cart. Organic waste consists of food scraps, compostable food-soiled paper, and yard waste.

Why is it important to recycle my organic waste and what is SB 1383?

SB 1383 went into effect January 1, 2022, and requires all California businesses, multifamily complexes, and residents to separate organic waste from trash. This bill was passed in order to divert more food waste and yard trimmings from our landfills which will help to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change. For more information, visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/slcp.

What is food-soiled paper?

Food-soiled paper are paper products that have been in contact with liquid or solid food waste and cannot be recycled into other paper products. Examples of food-soiled paper includes napkins, paper plates and cups that do not contain a plastic membrane (thin plastic lining), food paper wraps, stained pizza boxes, and used coffee filters.

Why can't biodegradable or compostable plastic bags be used to line food pails?

Biodegradable and compostable plastic bags do not decompose at the same rate as food, yard waste, and food-soiled paper wrap or bags. Since organic waste is treated to create compost, fertilizers, and biofuels, using biodegradable and compostable plastic bags will result in contamination.

What happens to your organic waste when it leaves your home?

Organic waste (food waste and green waste) is sent to WM's South Valley Compost Facility where it is processed to produce high-quality, nutrient-rich compost suitable for planting or crop growth.

For general information visit www.chinohills.org/OrganicsRecycling.

For questions, please contact WM customer care at (800) 423-9986.