

City of Seal Beach Recycling & Waste Newsletter



SUMMER 2024

714.847.3581

Guidelines for Great Recycling

- **Know What's Recyclable** – Recycle all clean, dry paper, including cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, office paper, school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags and wrapping paper with no metal. Also, recycle metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs and containers in the same cart or dumpster.
- **Label Bins Clearly** – Inside your home, label your recycling bins clearly to remind everyone what can and cannot be recycled. Simple, visible labels can make a big difference.
- **Empty, Clean and Dry** – Empty bottles and other containers, remove excess residue, rinse them out, and allow them to air-dry.
- **Avoid Hazardous Materials** – Never put tanglers, like hoses or cords, or hazardous waste, such as batteries, chemicals or medical sharps, into your recycling cart. These items can endanger workers and damage equipment.



- **Steer Clear of Contaminants** – Keep “yucky” items out of your recycling cart! These include dirty recyclables, greasy pizza boxes, pet waste and, especially, diapers.
- **Learn More** – For more tips about recycling, visit RecyclingSimplified.com.

Let's Talk About Recycling!

Over the past few months, recycling has been in the news. It has been reported that much of the plastic produced is never recycled. That's true, because much of the plastic produced makes durable goods — from auto parts to kitchen containers — that are used for decades. However, nearly one-third of bottles, jugs, jars and tubs are recycled through curbside programs each year. The same is true for glass bottles and jars, which can become new bottles, jars and fiberglass. Manufacturers that use those recyclables could use more of them.

The materials we collect are recycled, and we will continue to accept materials, sort them, and deliver them to markets where manufacturers turn them into new products.

Your recycling continues to conserve natural resources, reduce water and air pollution in manufacturing, save

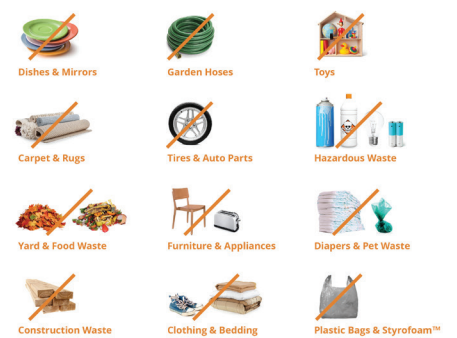
What Goes Where?

RECYCLE

Acceptable Items (empty, clean and dry)



Unacceptable Items



*Break down and flatten all boxes.

YARD WASTE

Acceptable Items

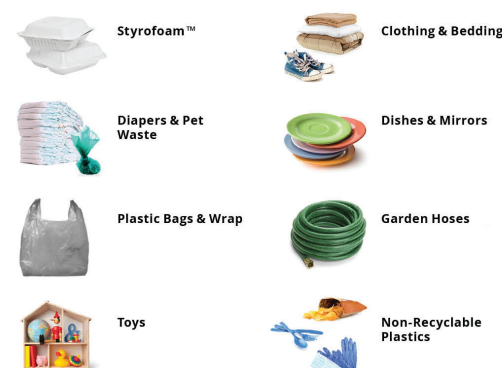


Unacceptable Items



TRASH

Acceptable Items



Unacceptable Items



energy, and create jobs. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the U.S. scrap industry supports more than 506,000 American jobs. More than 70% of recyclables nationwide are used in U.S. factories. Energy savings achieved by using

recyclables instead of virgin materials in manufacturing range from 34% for glass to 96% for aluminum. So, keep recycling! Recycling is still a great way to care for our environment and support our economy.

Learn more about what Republic Services is doing to capture more plastics for recycling at RepublicServices.com/residents/recycling-and-solid-waste/plastic.

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Republic Services, Inc.
17121 Nichols Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Mandatory Recycling for Businesses

Recyclables: Assembly Bill (AB) 341 makes recycling mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of waste per week and multi-family properties with five or more units. Under AB 341, businesses and properties must recycle paper, boxes, cans, bottles and containers, as well as recyclable items that are unique to their operations.

Organics: Under AB 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Organics include both food scraps and yard debris. Organics recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate 2 or more cubic yards of solid waste (recyclables, trash and organics) per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.

Customer Recycling: Under AB 827, limited-service restaurants in California must now provide customers with visible, clearly marked and easily accessible containers for recyclables and organics (uneaten food scraps, soiled paper and similar items) adjacent to trash bins. Full-service restaurants need to provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption.



Donation Over Disposal



In a world where consumerism often reigns supreme, the question of what to do with our possessions when they're no longer of use frequently arises. The knee-jerk reaction for many is to simply toss them away, relegating them to the fate of a landfill. However, a more conscientious approach lies in donating these items.

By donating, we extend the lifespan of these items and lessen our impact on the planet. Additionally, donating can benefit those in need. What might be clutter to us could be a valuable resource to someone else. Clothes, furniture, books and other household items can find new life in the hands of those who can't afford to buy them brand-new. Donating allows us to contribute to our communities and support those who are less fortunate.

Fortunately, there are several ways to begin. One option is to donate to local charities or non-profit organizations. There are many thrift stores and donation centers where you can drop off your gently used items. These organizations often support various causes, such as education, healthcare or ending homelessness, so there is always a need for your items.

Another possibility is to donate online. Several websites and apps facilitate the donation process by connecting donors with individuals or organizations in need. Whether it's clothing, electronics or household goods, there's likely a platform where you can find someone who could benefit from your donations.

You can also consider organizing a donation drive in your neighborhood or workplace. Encourage others to join you in decluttering their homes and donating items to those in need.

Republic Services Goes All-Electric

Republic Services is at the forefront of innovation with an all-electric fleet aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030. This goal, aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement and backed by the Science Based Targets Initiative, underscores our commitment to sustainability. Republic Services operates a fleet of 17,000 collection trucks, making the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) a significant step toward achieving our environmental goals.



Municipalities adopting electric fleets can enjoy several benefits, including a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, as transportation accounts for 28% of such emissions in the United States. Additionally, electric collection trucks are much quieter than their CNG/RNG or diesel counterparts, enhancing the quality of life in residential areas. Ideally, route trucks should run continuously throughout the day and not require a midday stop to recharge. Trucks service 800-1,600 homes on collection routes, starting and stopping every few hundred feet, which presents a greater power draw (from the body) than a long-haul over-the-road truck.

The transition to an electric fleet, however, involves overcoming several challenges. These trucks face greater power demands due to the need to lift and compact waste continuously. The weight of the collected material adds to the strain on the vehicle's drivetrain, necessitating robust battery performance and efficient power management.

Infrastructure is another critical factor. Charging a fleet of electric collection vehicles requires significant utility power, especially as the fleet size grows. Charging typically occurs from the end of the day to early morning, necessitating substantial investments in transformers, switch gears, distribution lines and charging stations. Route dynamics also play a crucial role in the early success of electric fleets. Routes in flat terrains and moderate climates are more suitable for initial EV deployment due to lower power consumption compared to hilly or extreme weather routes.

Republic Services is actively addressing these challenges by collaborating with multiple platform manufacturers. We provide operational data to aid in the development of EV technology and run pilot programs to test prototypes in real-world conditions. Feedback from these programs helps improve truck designs, making them more suited for widespread use. In 2022, pilot programs in Hickory, North Carolina, and Boise, Idaho, offered valuable insights into EV performance.

Our long-term plans are aggressive but achievable. As performance, infrastructure, route dynamics and economics mature for all routes in all geographies, we will implement electric trucks in municipalities that want to benefit from EV.



Credit: Drazen Zigic | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Back-to-School Savings

As the back-to-school season approaches, it's time to gear up for another academic year. However, this doesn't mean you'll have to break the bank. With proper planning and smart choices, you can navigate back-to-school shopping, while saving money and reducing waste.

- Take inventory of what you already have. Many items, like backpacks, binders and calculators, can be reused from previous years, saving you money and reducing unnecessary purchases.
- Shop secondhand. Thrift stores and online marketplaces are treasure troves for affordable and gently used school supplies. From clothing to textbooks, buying secondhand not only saves money, but it also reduces the demand for new production.
- Invest in durable, high-quality items that will last longer. While they may have a higher upfront cost, they will save you money in the long run by eliminating the need for frequent replacements. Look for products made from sustainable materials, like recycled paper.
- Take advantage of sales and discounts by planning your shopping in advance. Start looking for deals early, and consider bulk-buying essentials, like pencils and notebooks, to save both money and packaging waste.
- Try DIY. Get creative, and make your own school supplies whenever possible. From decorating plain notebooks, to sewing your own pencil case, DIY projects are not only fun, but they are also eco-friendly and budget-friendly.
- Pack a waste-free lunch. Invest in reusable containers, water bottles and utensils to pack your lunch. Not only does this reduce single-use plastic waste, but it also saves money compared to buying pre-packaged meals every day.
- Be a mindful consumer. Before making a purchase, consider whether you really need it.

Mark Your Calendar!

- **Summer Send-Off, August 3** – Have fun with us at the Summer Send-Off on Saturday, August 3, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Heather Park.
- **Edison Community Gardens Cleanup Days**
 - ☐ Friday, August 9, from 8 a.m. to noon
 - ☐ Saturday, October 26, from 8 a.m. to noon
- **Seal Beach Tree Lighting Ceremony, November 23** – The City of Seal Beach, in partnership with Republic Services and the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce, is set to host this year's Tree Lighting Ceremony at Eisenhower Park. Join us as we kick off the holiday season.
- **Breakfast With Santa, December 14** – City of Seal Beach and the Lions Club will host this event at the Marina Community Center on December 14, from 8 to 11 a.m.

BATTERY BEWARE

TAKE CHARGE. STAY SAFE.

DON'T Recycle or Trash Lithium Batteries at Home

Lithium batteries are extremely popular because they are reliable and long-lasting. These types of batteries are found in a wide range of devices, including cell phones, power tools, laptops, tablets, children's toys, scooters, electric toothbrushes and more.



PREVENT FIRES

Lithium and lithium-ion batteries, which are made from highly flammable materials, can pose a serious fire risk.¹ If overheated, punctured or faulty, these batteries can cause fires or explode.



PROTECT PEOPLE

Lithium battery fires are incredibly difficult to extinguish and may reignite days later. When batteries fail, they can release toxic gases that endanger individuals in their homes and workplaces.

DO'S & DON'TS

- DON'T** Overcharge lithium batteries or leave them plugged in overnight.
- DON'T** Throw away lithium batteries in the trash.
- DON'T** Try to recycle lithium batteries at home.
- DO** Store batteries between 40°F and 80°F.
- DO** Cover battery terminals with electrical tape and/or place them in separate plastic bags when disposing.
- DO** Dispose of lithium-ion batteries at designated recycling or household hazardous waste collection centers.



LEARN MORE AT:
[RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries](https://www.RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries)

1. https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/sil/lithium_fire_prevention_sl093.pdf



Sustainability in Action

The City of Seal Beach Launches Eco-Friendly Micro-Transit in Old Town, Bridgeport and The Hill

The City of Seal Beach launched a new pilot micro-transit program operated by Circuit, which was made possible by the grant awarded to the City from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) Clean Transportation Funding program.



This program offers easy, eco-friendly transportation throughout the City. The pilot program commenced in late April and will continue for one year. The pilot service area includes Old Town, the Hill and Bridgeport. For now, Circuit operates four days a week and provides transportation to all local spots, such as Main Street and the pier.

Hours of Operation:

- Thursdays: 4 – 10 p.m.
- Fridays: 4 – 10 p.m.
- Saturdays: 12 – 10 p.m.
- Sundays: 12 – 6 p.m.

Hours may be modified, subject to demand and use input. To use Circuit, riders must download the Ride Circuit app from the app store or visit [ridecircuit.com/ride](https://www.ridecircuit.com/ride) for more information.

Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste



Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any product in your home that could be poisonous or dangerous if thrown in the trash. HHW includes car and lawn care products, paints and paint thinners, batteries, cleaning supplies and more. Never toss HHW into the trash. HHW can endanger children and pets, result in spills in your neighborhood and cause fires if it is placed into curbside carts. It can also endanger Republic Services trucks, buildings and personnel.

Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed on major holidays and during rainy weather)

Locations:

1071 N. Blue Gum St., Anaheim, 92806

17121 Nichols Ln., Gate 6, Huntington Beach, 92647

6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, 92618

32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, 92675

Please note that the Huntington Beach location will be closed temporarily in August and September 2024 for repairs. For locations, a list of accepted materials and more information, visit Oclandfills.com/hazardous.

Holiday Collection Schedule

Recycling, yard waste and trash collection service on and after these holidays will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

March in Review

Dump Day – On Saturday, March 9, the City of Seal Beach hosted another successful Dump Day in partnership with Caltrans, Republic Services and Goodwill. Residents were able to drop off bulk items free of charge, helping to keep salvageable items out of the landfill. This was our best Dump Day yet, with more than 6 bins filled and 140+ drop-offs! Did you miss Dump Day? Remember, Republic Services single-family residential customers with cart service may request free pickup for one bulk item twice per year. Additional pickups are available for a fee. If you live in a multi-family complex, you can pay for a pickup from Republic Services or check with your property manager to find out how to dispose of bulk items. Call **714.847.3581** to learn more.



Courtyard – On the first day of spring (March 19), the City of Seal Beach held a small ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the Courtyard Beautification Project. This project includes the creation of a water-wise demonstration garden and a pollinator garden. Thanks to the efforts of the City of Seal Beach Staff Engagement Team (SET) and support from a Community Partnership Program grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, this project became a reality. For more information, visit sealbeachca.gov/courtyard.



Stay Informed

The Seal Beach Police Department uses a range of communication methods to keep residents informed, particularly during emergencies. These include AlertOC notifications, Nixle Instant Alerts via text and social media. To learn more and to sign up for alerts, visit Sealbeachpd.com.



City of Seal Beach

SealBeachCA.gov

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AskCityHall@SealBeachCA.gov

Support Local Businesses



SealBeachChamber.org

Contact Us

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RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA



Sustainability in Action