

Eastern Kern Universal Collection Area

2026 Summer Residential Newsletter



Hello From WM!

We're pleased to share helpful tips and resources to support your WM services. As summer brings new projects and warmer weather, this issue includes information to help you plan, manage your service, and stay informed throughout the season.

Curbside Cart Service

Your curbside residential service is paid annually through property tax and includes one (1) 96-gallon recycling cart, one (1) 96-gallon organics cart and one (1) 96-gallon trash cart.

Container Color Changes: What You Should Know

As part of statewide requirements, you may also notice updates to your carts. California State Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires collection containers to be uniform in color across the state by 2036. Carts will be gradually transitioned to the new color scheme—recycling containers will have a blue lid, organics will have a green lid, and trash containers will have a black lid. Please check the lid or label for instructions on how to use the container correctly and avoid contamination.

Recycling



Organic Waste



Trash



Curbside Collection Schedule

Organics: collected every week

Trash: collected every week

Recycling: collected every other week

What Goes in My Containers

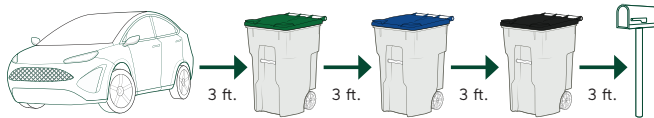
A list of acceptable items for each container is included in this guide and on each cart lid, along with instructions for proper cart placement.

Additional Carts

EKUCA residential customers with extra trash, recycling, or organics can request an additional 96-gallon cart for an additional charge. WM will bill separately for this additional service.

Cart Service Reminders

1. Place all waste and recycling in the appropriate container and close the lid so that it fits tight to the cart body. Trash, organics, and recyclables left outside the carts will not be collected.
2. Place your carts at the curb by 6 a.m. on collection day. Emptied carts should be removed from curbside following service.
3. Place your carts at least 3 feet apart and 3 feet away from any obstacles to allow the automatic arm to lift and empty the cart. Place the wheels of the cart toward your house.



Organics Recycling: What to Know

Why it's Important

Did you know? Food scraps and yard waste make up a significant portion of what is sent to landfills. When organic waste is landfilled, it breaks down and releases greenhouse gases and liquids that can seep into the ground. Keeping these materials out of landfills helps reduce methane emissions, a major contributor to climate change, while supporting healthier air, soil, and the community.

Composting and recycling organics helps ensure food scraps and yard waste are managed in the intended way when placed in the green cart.

Reducing Waste


Plan meals and store food properly to reduce waste. Donate edible food whenever possible. For more information about food recovery organizations, visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/foodrecovery/organizations/> or email organics@kerncounty.com.


How to Handle Organics

Place food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic materials in your green container. Please do not use plastic bags, which can contaminate compost and interfere with processing. Paper bags, cardboard boxes, or compostable bags that meet ASTM D6400 standards are acceptable.

Follow Us

 Facebook: @WMSouthernCalifornia

 Instagram: @WM_SoCal

 Twitter/X: @WM_SoCal



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Walk-Out Service for Disabled Customers

WM offers a walk out service at no charge for qualified disabled customers with a single-family residence. To request this service, contact Customer Service.



Bulk Item Collection

As an EKUCA residential customer, you can schedule up to 12 bulky item pickups each year, with up to two items per pickup, at no additional charge.

To ensure timely collection, requests must be scheduled no later than 48 hours before your regular service day. Schedule your bulk item pickup at home.wm.com/kern-county.

Acceptable Bulk Items: furniture (chair, mattress, sofa), appliances (dishwasher, microwave), electronic waste (TVs, computers), area rugs, etc.

Unacceptable Bulk Items: household hazardous waste (such as paint, oil and batteries), tires, spas, pianos, vehicle parts, items requiring more than two persons to safely handle.

Household Hazardous Waste

EKUCA residents can dispose of household hazardous waste, such as batteries, sharps, household cleaners, pesticides, paint products, swimming pool chemicals and automotive fluids at the following County Special Waste Facilities:

Mojave

Mojave Special Waste Facility

17035 Finin Street (Southwest corner of Finin & Sabovich Streets on the Mojave Airport property)

Hours: first Saturday of every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, and November) from 9 a.m. to noon.

Ridgecrest

Ridgecrest Kern County Special Waste Facility

3301 W. Bowman Road (Ridgecrest Landfill)

Hours: Second & Fourth Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bakersfield

Metro Kern County Special Waste Facility

4951 Standard Street (Southwest corner of Standard and Foster Streets)

Hours: Monday –Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

One-Day Kern County Collection Events.

For upcoming dates and locations, visit kernpublicworks.com

Holidays

WM observes the following holidays.

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

When your collection day falls on or after one of these holidays, your collection will be delayed by one day that week only. Visit home.wm.com/kern-county for a collection calendar.



Connect with WM

Your Community Website

Visit home.wm.com/kern-county to check pickup schedules (including holidays), review service guidelines, submit requests, and contact us—all in just a few clicks. It's your one-stop hub for staying informed and in control.

My WM Account

With My WM, you can easily view your service and holiday schedules, manage your account, and more. Getting started is simple, visit wm.com/mywm or download the My WM App from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Let's Chat

Visit wm.com/support to chat with our virtual assistant or connect with a customer service representative who's ready to help.

Give Us a Call

WM Customer Care Center (661) 947-7197.

Follow Us



Facebook: [@WMSouthernCalifornia](https://www.facebook.com/WMSouthernCalifornia)



Instagram: [@WM_SoCal](https://www.instagram.com/WM_SoCal)



Twitter/X: [@WM_SoCal](https://twitter.com/WM_SoCal)



Organics | Recycling | Trash

Right Materials - Right Container - Know Which Container to Use

SB 1383 aims to slow climate change by diverting organic materials from landfills, recovering 20% of edible food, and redirecting it to food-insecure Californians. Organic waste in landfills emits 20% of the state's methane, a climate super pollutant that heats 84 times more than carbon dioxide*. (*CalRecycle, <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp>)

What Goes in the Organics Container:



Food Waste



Yard Waste



Produce



Food Soiled Paper,
Coffee Filters & Tea Bags



Meat, Fish & Poultry



Dairy



Bread, Pasta, Rice,
Grains, Coffee Grounds

Place organics materials directly into your organics cart - **To reduce odor, put food waste in a paper bag, layer with yard trimmings, freeze, or add baking soda. You may also use a compostable bag that meets ASTM D6400 standards.**



Do Not Include:

- Plastic Bags or Film
- Serveware/Utensils
- Plastic Containers
- Foam Containers
- Hazardous Waste
- Fats, Oils, or Greases
- Palm Fronds

What Goes in the Recycling Container:



Plastic Bottles, Cups
& Containers



Paper & Paper Cups



Glass Bottles & Containers



Flattened Cardboard
& Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cans



Place recyclables directly into your recycling cart - **Don't bag your recycling materials.**



Do Not Include:

- Food Or Liquids
- Plastic Bags or Film
- Foam Containers
- Clothing, Furniture or Carpet
- Batteries
- Electronics
- Hazardous Waste
- Yard Waste

What Goes in the Trash Container:



Foam Cups &
Containers



Garden Hose



Broken Ceramic
Dishes & Pots



Candy, Snack &
Food Wrappers



Palm Fronds



Plastic Bags & Film



Diapers



Pet Waste



Clothing & Textiles



Do Not Include:

- Organics/Recyclables
- Hazardous Waste
- Electronics & CFL Bulbs
- Batteries, Tires or Paint
- Flammable Material

home.wm.com/kern-county

Follow Us

Facebook: @WMSouthernCalifornia

Instagram: @WM_SoCal

Twitter/X: @WM_SoCal

