

City of Mission Viejo

Residential Waste & Recycling Newsletter

Fall 2026



Holiday Wrapping Paper: Recycle or Trash?

The holiday season brings plenty of excitement... and lots of wrapping paper! But before you toss it into your recycling cart, it's important to know that not all wrapping paper is recyclable.

Recycle: Plain paper gift wrap, kraft paper, paper gift bags (with handles removed), and cardboard gift boxes.

Trash: Metallic, foil, glitter-covered, laminated, or heavily decorated wrapping paper. These materials cannot be processed through standard recycling systems and belong in the trash cart.

Quick Test: Crumple the wrapping paper into a ball. If it stays crumpled, it's usually recyclable. If it unfolds right away or has a shiny metallic finish, place it in the trash.



Reduce Contamination, Recycle Right®

Did you know that California's SB 1383 law requires all residents to place trash, recycling, and organic waste in the correct containers? Proper sorting helps ensure recyclable and organic materials can be processed as intended and keeps contamination out of collection carts.

WM and the City of Mission Viejo are working together to help residents recycle right and reduce contamination. Contamination occurs when items are placed in the wrong cart, which can affect recycling and organics collection programs. If contamination is found, residents will receive two courtesy notices with helpful sorting tips and educational resources. These notices are designed to give residents the opportunity to correct sorting habits before a contamination fee is assessed.

By placing the right materials in the right cart, residents can help support a more effective recycling and organics program throughout the community.



Recycle with Confidence

Get a quick refresher on what goes where with Mission Viejo's Residential Recycling Video. Visit bit.ly/MVOrganics or scan for quick access.

Cleaning Out the Garage? Don't Forget Household Hazardous Waste

Fall is the perfect time to clear out old paint, household chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, and unwanted electronics. Because these materials can pose safety and environmental risks, they should never be placed in your trash, recycling, or organics carts.

To help residents dispose of these items properly, WM and the City of Mission Viejo are hosting a free Drive-Thru Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event exclusively for Mission Viejo residents.



Accepted Items Include:

- Pool chemicals
- Household cleaners
- Garden chemicals and pesticides
- Paint, stains, and paint thinners
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes
- Electronic waste (e-waste)

Items Not Accepted:

- Sharps or needles
- Ammunition or explosives
- Tires
- Asbestos or construction materials
- Large appliances (other than microwaves)
- Leaking containers
- Pressurized cylinders
- Biomedical, radioactive, or unidentified waste

Event Details

Saturday, October 3, 2026 • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Mission Viejo City Hall Parking Lot
200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo

Before You Arrive

- Bring a valid photo ID showing Mission Viejo residency.
- Remain in your vehicle at all times.
- No walk-ups or business waste will be accepted.
- Each vehicle may dispose of up to 125 pounds or 15 gallons of HHW, with individual containers not exceeding 5 gallons.

Take advantage of this free community event and clear out unwanted hazardous materials before the busy holiday season.

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Shred Sensitive Documents Securely

Protect your personal information and clear out old paperwork at Mission Viejo's free Drive-Thru Shred Event. Residents and local businesses are invited to bring up to five banker-size boxes of confidential documents for secure, on-site shredding.

To help keep the event running smoothly, please remove binders, paper clips, plastic sleeves, and metal fasteners before arriving.

Please note: CDs, credit cards, three-ring binders, wire dividers, magazines, newspapers, and spiral notebooks cannot be accepted.

Event Details

Saturday, October 10, 2026 • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Mission Viejo City Hall Parking Lot
200 Civic Center

Event ends earlier if truck capacity is reached.

For everyone's safety, please remain in your vehicle throughout the event.

Give Your Holiday Tree a Second Life

Once the holidays are over, place your holiday tree at the curb for collection on your regular service day. To ensure safe and efficient collection:

- Cut trees taller than 6 feet in half
- Remove all decorations, lights, tinsel, and tree stands
- Flocked trees are accepted but cannot be recycled and will be collected separately



Holiday Tree Recycling Period:

December 26, 2026, through January 16, 2027

Prefer to drop off your tree?

Free tree recycling bins will be available at the following locations:

Mission Viejo Animal Services Center
28095 Hillcrest

Marty Russo Youth Athletic Park
22056 Olympiad Rd

Gilleran Park
24960 Felipe Rd



Free Composting Workshop for Mission Viejo Residents

Ready to start composting at home? Join WM and the City of Mission Viejo for a free composting class and learn easy ways to turn food scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost.

Saturday, October 24 • 10:00 a.m.

Mission Viejo City Hall-Kershaw Garden
200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo

Reserve Your Spot

- Email greenmv@cityofmissionviejo.org to register. Availability is limited.
- Resident Discounts Available

Compost Bins: \$60 (a \$120 value)

Worm Bins with 1 lb. of worms: \$80 (a \$160 value)

Fall Safety Tip: Keep Batteries Out of the Cart

From flashlights and tools to toys and electronics, batteries are found in many household items. As you tackle fall cleaning and organizing projects, remember that batteries don't belong in your trash or recycling cart. When compressed during collection, batteries can ignite and cause fires. Proper disposal helps protect workers, equipment, and the community. Visit www.missionviejo.gov/departments/public-works/household-hazardous-waste to find safe drop-off locations.



Holidays

WM observes the following holidays:

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

If your collection day falls on or after a holiday, pickup will be delayed by one day that week. For example, for a Thursday holiday, service would be on Friday, and Friday service would be Saturday. For holidays on Saturday or Sunday, there are no delays.

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