

Mission Viejo

Residential Recycling News

Fall 2025



Let's Keep Mission Viejo Clean & Green!

As part of California's statewide effort to reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions, all residents are required to properly sort their trash, recycling, and organics. This is in accordance with SB 1383, a state law that helps ensure we're all doing our part for a cleaner future.

WM and the City of Mission Viejo are working together to monitor recycling efforts and provide helpful guidance when sorting mistakes (called "contamination") are found. Residents will receive two courtesy notices before any contamination fees are applied.

Need a refresher? Check out the City's quick and helpful Residential Recycling Video made just for Mission Viejo residents! Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/MVOrganics



For more info on how WM's Smart Truck technology helps monitor and improve recycling, visit: wm.com/smartruck



Holiday Tree Recycling – December 26, 2025 to January 17, 2026

We'll be collecting holiday trees curbside on your regular collection day. Please follow these guidelines:

- Cut trees over 6 feet in half
- Remove all decorations, lights, tinsel, and stands
- Flocked trees are accepted but cannot be recycled

Prefer to drop off your tree? Use the designated WM bins at:

- Mission Viejo Animal Services Center – 28095 Hillcrest
- Marty Russo Youth Athletic Park – 22056 Olympiad Rd
- Gilleran Park – 24960 Felipe Rd



Holidays

WM observes the following holidays. Residential collection services will be delayed one day following the above holidays. There will be no delay if a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

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

Got Leftover Cooking Oil from the Holidays?

Orange County residents can bring up to 5 gallons of used cooking oil in a sealed container to any County of Orange Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center.

Locations:

- 1071 N. Blue Gum Street, Anaheim, CA 92806
- 17121 Nichols Lane - Gate 6, Huntington Beach, CA. 92647
- 6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA. 92618
- 32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, CA. 92675

Open Tuesday–Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(Closed on major holidays and rainy days)

Tip: Small amounts of cooled oil can go in your trash cart if securely sealed. Mix with unscented cat litter, sawdust, or sand and freeze to solidify before disposal.

More info: oclandfills.com/hazardous or call (714) 834-4000



Fall Leaves Taking Over? Schedule a Free Bulk Pickup!

Mission Viejo residents are eligible for three (3) free bulk item pickups per year. Each pickup includes:

- Up to 5 large items (furniture, appliances, etc.)
OR up to 20 bags of trash or yard waste (under 50 pounds each)
- Electronic waste like TVs, monitors, and computers is also accepted!

Schedule your pick up online at least 48 hours before your regular collection day to schedule at home.wm.com/mission-viejo.

Halloween Recycling Tip: What to Do with Candy Wrappers

Did you know Americans purchase around 600 million pounds of candy for Halloween each year? That's a staggering amount of candy—and even more wrappers.

But here's the trick: candy wrappers are NOT recyclable. Most are made from mixed materials like plastic and metal, which can't be separated by recycling machines. Their small size also makes them difficult to capture during sorting.

What to do?

Toss all candy wrappers in the trash, not the recycling bin. It's a small step that helps keep our recycling stream clean and effective.

Let's keep Halloween sweet—and sustainable!

Recycle Right® This Holiday Season

The holidays bring joy, gifts, and celebrations—but also a surge in waste. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generate an extra 1 million tons of trash per week during the holiday season.

Between wrapping paper, bows, and Christmas trees, do you know what belongs in the recycling bin, what can be reused, and what should go in the trash?

Use this quick guide to help you Recycle Right® and keep the season sustainable:

Recycle

- Cardboard boxes
- Christmas trees
- Gift boxes and bags (if paper-based)
- Paper-based packaging materials
- Plain greeting cards
- Wrapping paper (only if it's free of glitter or foil)

Reuse

- Gift boxes and bags (reuse first, recycle if damaged)
- Ribbons and bows (reuse whenever possible)

Trash

- Wrapping paper with glitter or foil
- Broken ornaments
- Bubble wrap
- Christmas lights
- Foam packing inserts/packing peanuts
- Plastic gift cards
- Ribbons and bows (if not reusable)
- Wreaths and garland

