

County of Orange

Recycling News Winter 2024

Proudly serving the communities of: Coto de Caza, Cowan Heights, Emerald Bay, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, North Tustin, Orange Park Acres and the Canyons



Organic Waste Program Tips and Tricks

We appreciate you putting in the effort to separate your food waste! Please continue placing all your food and yard waste in your organics cart, this includes meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice, grains, eggshells, plate scrapings, and minimal amounts of food soiled paper.

If you are having a hard time adjusting to the food waste recycling program, we would like to provide some frequently asked questions and tips and tricks that have helped other residents.

Why is separating organic waste necessary?

- When organic waste such as yard waste or food waste gets buried at the landfill, the organic waste decomposes with no oxygen, causing methane gas to be released into our environment. Methane gas is one of the most potent greenhouse gasses, these gasses trap heat in our atmosphere, contributing to our warming climate. Senate Bill 1383 was passed to help reduce the amount of these climate pollutants being released in California. This is why it is so important to separate your food waste and your yard waste from the trash.

How can I reduce odors and help keep my cart clean?

- Layer your food and yard waste, place a layer of yard waste or paper on the bottom of your organics cart. Then place your food waste on top of the green waste to help with cleanliness and odors.
- Freeze your smelly organic items such as meat and dairy, then place them in your cart on your day of service to avoid odor and bugs.
- Sprinkle baking soda or diatomaceous earth in your organics cart, on top of your food waste to help with odors.



Holiday Tree Recycling

WM will collect and recycle Christmas trees, starting on December 26th, for three (3) consecutive weeks at no additional charge. Trees will be collected at the curb and picked up by special flatbed trucks.

After the three-week period, you may cut your tree and place the pieces in your green waste cart with the lid completely closed.

- Trees taller than six (6) feet must be cut in half.
- Please remove all decorations including lights, ornaments, tinsel and tree stands
- Flocked trees will be collected but not recycled.

Contact WM Customer Service at (949) 642-1191 with any questions.

Recycling Do's and Don'ts



DO recycle all empty bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.

DO keep foods and liquids out of recycling.

DO place your recyclables loosely in the cart.



DON'T include food-soiled items – they can turn an entire load of recycling into trash.

DON'T add sharp or dangerous materials like needles and electronics – they can cause injury to our workers.

DON'T toss in “tanglers” like plastic bags/film, rubber hoses and wires – they can shut down an entire recycling center!

DON'T include bulky items like propane tanks or construction debris.



Holiday Schedule

Collection does not occur on the following holidays:

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

When a holiday falls on a weekday, collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

Senior Citizen and Low-Income Discount

Qualifying Senior Citizens are eligible to receive a discount of approximately 10% off their waste collection bill.

How do I qualify for the Senior Citizen Discount?

- Must provide proof of 65 years of age or older
- Must be head of household
- Must use 35-gallon containers for all cart types

How do I qualify for the Low-Income Discount?

- Provide proof of low income by being enrolled in "California Lifeline" telephone program or CARE/FERA program, or by submitting a copy of utility bill showing a low-income discount
- Must have name on utility bill or another low-income program
- Must be head of household

For more information and to receive a copy of the Senior/Low-Income Discount Form, please visit wm.com/orange-county or call WM Customer Service.



Free Bulky Item Pick-Ups

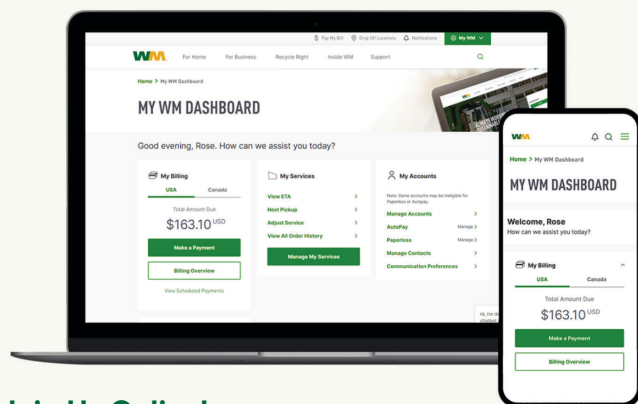
If getting rid of junk is part of your New Year's Resolutions, let us help!

Unincorporated of Orange County residents may request three (3) free bulky pickups per year with up to four items per pick up for free. Acceptable items include furniture and appliances, or up to 20 bags of trash or green waste. Electronic waste, such as TVs, computers, monitors and DVDs, can also be picked up. Please call the Customer Service Center at (949) 642-1191 at least two business days in advance of your collection day to schedule a pick-up.



Have Broken or Damaged Carts?

If you have a damaged or broken cart, or if you would like to request a different sized cart, please contact our customer service at (949) 642-1191.



Join Us Online!

If you have not had a chance already, visit wm.com to create your online Waste Management account. Here you can view and pay your quarterly waste bill, sign up for auto pay and set paperless billing preferences. Please also ensure your preferred contact information is up to date. This ensures you receive the latest information regarding your collection services.

Download the My WM Mobile App

The Waste Management My WM mobile app makes it easy for you to manage your accounts on the go. Getting started is easy, you can log in with the same Email and Password you use to log in to wm.com.

If you haven't signed-up for a My WM online account yet, you may complete first-time registrations through the app as well. Features include:

- Manage your payments
- Pay your bill
- Enroll in automatic payments
- Sign up for paperless billing
- View payment history
- Cancel scheduled payments
- View pick-up schedule
- View holiday schedule and weather alerts