

County of Orange

Recycling News Spring 2025

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.



Green Cleaning Tips

- **Use natural items to freshen your home:** An open box of baking soda, dried flowers or cedar blocks can freshen up any room in your home and are an eco-friendly alternative to chemically-based air fresheners.
- **Make your own cleaning supplies:** Natural products, like baking soda and vinegar, can pack as much cleaning power as chemically-based cleaners.

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.



home.wm.com/orange-county





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 home.wm.com/orange-county.



Connect with WM

Visit Your Community Website

We're excited to have you visit your dedicated community website at home.wm.com/orange-county. This is your go-to spot for everything about waste and recycling in your area. You'll find helpful guidelines, pickup schedules for regular and holiday collections, and easy ways to submit service requests or get in touch with us. Don't forget to bookmark the site for quick access!



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 schedule your pickup online at home.wm.com/orange-county 48 hours in advance of your collection day.



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 log into your My WM account or visit wm.com/support.

Create Your My WM Account

Setting up a My WM account allows you to conveniently view your service and holiday schedules, manage your account, pay your bills, and even set up autopay and paperless billing. Plus, you can request additional services whenever you need them. Scan the QR code or head to wm.com/mywm to get started!

Get the My WM App

Download the My WM App from Google Play or the Apple App Store for on-the-go account management.

Let's Chat

Visit us at wm.com/support to chat with our virtual assistant or click on the chat icon at the bottom right of the page to connect with one of our customer service representatives.

