

County of Orange

Recycling News

Winter 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



You Make the Difference. We've Made It Easier.

Your everyday choices matter—and now, making a positive impact is even simpler. Recycling at home now includes plastic and paper to-go cups!

Every cup you recycle adds up. Because small steps lead to big change.



Organic Waste Tips That Help Make a Difference

Thanks for making the effort to recycle your food and yard waste - items like meat, dairy, fruits, veggies, grains, and food-soiled paper into your organics cart.

Why Does it Matter?

When organic waste ends up in landfills, it breaks down

without oxygen and releases methane—a powerful greenhouse gas. By separating your organics, you're helping reduce climate pollutants and supporting California's efforts under Senate Bill 1383 to protect our environment.

Getting Started Isn't Always Easy—But You're Not Alone

Here are a few tips that have helped other residents make the transition smoother:

- **Layer it:** Start with yard waste or paper at the bottom of your cart, then add food waste on top. This helps reduce mess and odor.
- **Freeze it:** Store smelly items like meat and dairy in the freezer until pickup day to avoid bugs and smells.
- **Freshen it:** Sprinkle baking soda or diatomaceous earth over your food waste to keep things clean and odor-free.

Holiday Tree Recycling

WM will collect and recycle Christmas trees, starting on December 26, 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.

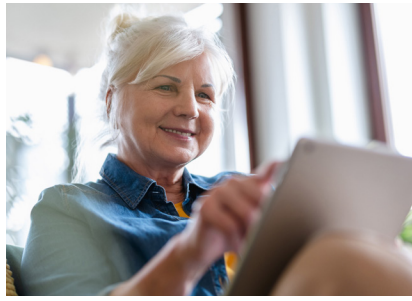


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Discounts for Seniors and Income-Qualified Residents

Eligible residents may receive approximately 10% off their waste collection bill.



Senior Discount Eligibility

- Age 65 or older (proof required)
- Head of household
- Use 35-gallon containers for all cart types

Income-Qualified Discount Eligibility

- Enrolled in California Lifeline, CARE, or FERA programs, or provide a utility bill showing a low-income discount
- Name must appear on the qualifying document
- Head of household

For details and to request a discount form, visit <https://home.wm.com/orange-county>.



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 visit home.wm.com/orange-county.



Free Bulky Item Pickups

Start the new year clutter-free! Residents in unincorporated Orange County can schedule three (3) free bulky item pickups per year, with up to four (4) items per pickup.

Accepted Items Include:

- Furniture and appliances
- Up to 20 bags of trash or green waste
- Electronic waste (TVs, computers, monitors, DVDs)

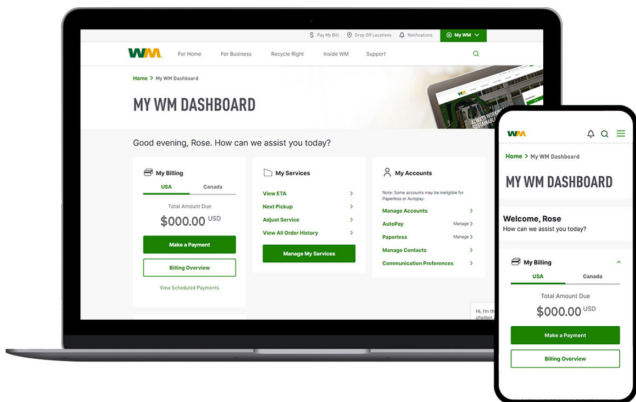
To schedule a pickup, visit home.wm.com/orange-county at least two business days before your regular collection day.

Holiday Schedule

Collection does not occur during 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 for one day for the remainder of the week.



Connect With WM

Your Community Website—Everything You Need in One Place

Visit home.wm.com/orange-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.



home.wm.com/orange-county

My WM Account

Create your My WM account and take charge of your services anytime, anywhere. With My WM, you can easily view your service and holiday schedules, manage your account, pay bills, and even set up autopay and paperless billing for added convenience. Need extra services? You can request them whenever you need.

Getting started is simple, visit wm.com/MYWWM or download the My WM App from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Let's Chat

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

