



## Placing Material in the Correct Bin Makes a Big Difference

City of San Diego residents are provided with trash and recycling containers. Materials in the black container (trash) are NOT sorted and go directly to the landfill. Materials in the blue container (recycling) are sorted once they reach the recycling facility. If you have green waste service (either manual or automated), this material gets processed at the City's Miramar Greenery and turned into compost and mulch. Keeping recycling and green waste containers free of contaminants is an important part of the City's overall Zero Waste goal.

Placing items in the wrong bin adversely affects the City's ability to meet California's 75% recycling goal by 2020. It also hurts the marketability of recyclable materials, and the ability to produce quality compost and mulch products.

### "Think Before You Throw"

**R**ecyclable material placed in the trash container is destined for the landfill. According to the City's most recent study, city residents throw away more than 26,000 tons of paper and cardboard and 10,000 tons of plastic, glass, aluminum and metal containers each year. These materials are readily and easily recyclable in your blue bin.



**T**he City's curbside recycling program collects more than 68,000 tons of material each year. Unfortunately, more than 15% of this material does not belong in the blue bin. Sorting out these contaminants requires labor and machinery, wasting time, money and energy. These contaminants affect the quality of other recyclables they come in contact with and can even damage the facility's equipment. See our "What Goes Where?" on page 3 for information on what's recyclable in your blue bin.



**W**hen trash or recyclable materials are placed in the green waste bin, it becomes difficult and costly to make clean compost and mulch products. Because these products are ground up to reduce their size, it's important that green waste remains contamination-free. One plastic bag or glass bottle can quickly become hundreds of tiny pieces which are difficult to remove.



Help ensure our waste and recycling systems run efficiently by placing items in the correct bin. Should you need extra bin space, additional trash bins (black) can be purchased for \$70 while recycling bins (blue) are free when picked up. If you'd like them delivered, there is a \$25 fee (some restrictions may apply). For more information call 858-694-7000 or visit [sandiego.gov/ESD](http://sandiego.gov/ESD).



## Compost: "Superfood for Your Yard"

Most San Diegans know our local soil is not the greatest or easiest for digging a shovel into. San Diego's dry-desert climate has given us a hard, clay soil that lacks the organic matter and nutrients plants need to thrive. One of the easiest and most cost effective ways to improve your soil is to add generous amounts of compost on a regular basis.

Compost is decomposed organic matter. Benefits of compost include increased nutrients available to plants; reduction, if not elimination, of synthetic fertilizers and an increase in the soil's ability to hold water. It also provides an ideal environment for microorganisms to thrive, further enriching the soil. Getting compost is as easy as visiting the Miramar Greenery. Each year, more than 100,000 tons of yard trimmings are transformed into compost and mulch products at the Greenery.

*(Compost cont. on page 2)*

# Organics Reduction and Recycling

*Wasted food costs a family of four \$1500 per year.*



Each year San Diego residents throw away an estimated 143,000 tons of organics (56,000 tons of food waste and 84,000 tons of green waste). Wasted food not only affects our wallets but it also wastes the labor, water, energy and resources that went into growing it. There are numerous ways residents can reduce the amount of food and green waste disposed in the landfill while saving money at the same time. To waste less food, consider the following:

- Identify food items that spoil quickly and eat/cook them first;
- Eat what you have before buying more;
- Use sealable food storage containers for leftovers or when buying in bulk;
- Freeze leftovers; and
- Take inventory before heading out on a shopping trip to not overbuy.

For additional tips, recipes and more, visit [SaveTheFood.com](http://SaveTheFood.com)

## Backyard Composting with Food Waste and Yard Trimmings

Composting at home is an easy way to turn food scraps and yard trimmings into a valuable resource for your garden. It also saves resources from not having to collect and process this material.



The City offers free backyard composting classes and discounts on compost bins. Learn more at [RecyclingWorks.com](http://RecyclingWorks.com)



## Plastic Bag Ban: One Year Later

Last November, California's statewide ban of single-use, plastic, carryout bags went into effect. Initial results indicate the law has been effective in significantly reducing the use of single-use plastic bags! Data from this year's Coastal Clean-up Day, held annually in September, indicate that plastic bags accounted for only 1.5% of all litter collected, compared to almost 10% in 2010. This drastic drop is not only a result of the ban itself, but also from residents like you remembering to bring your reusable bags. Keep it up!

*(Compost cont. from page 1)*

Improve your garden soil by applying 2" to 3" of compost at a depth of 3" to 4" into the soil a few times per year. Over time you'll have darker, healthier soil, that's able to retain water and create healthier plants.

**Into DIY?** Make your own potting mix by using compost: mix two parts garden soil with one part compost and one part perlite/sand. Your garden will thank you!

**New to Compost?** City of San Diego residents can self-load 2 cubic yards (or twelve 32-gallon cans full) of compost or 4-inch mulch for free; there is a \$12 fee to have it loaded for you. The Greenery is located at the Miramar Landfill, 5180 Convoy Street at Hwy. 52.



## "Recycle Right"

### Empty, Clean, Dry & Loose

Sure we all recycle but do you know how to "Recycle Right?" Cans, bottles and jars containing food or liquids contaminate recyclables like paper, cardboard and other materials. If these items become too contaminated with liquids and/or food residue, they may lose their recyclability. Follow the four simple steps below, to ensure your recyclables remain contamination-free.

- 1 Empty** - ensure recyclables are free from any liquids
- 2 Clean** - ensure recyclables are free of any food residue
- 3 Dry** - ensure recyclables are dry before placing them in your bin
- 4 Loose** - PLEASE DO NOT bag your recyclables. They must remain loose in the bin to be properly sorted (only shredded paper should be bagged)

By using "Recycle Right" as a guide, we can all help the City of San Diego reach its goal of Zero Waste by 2040.

# WHAT GOES WHERE?

## Recycling



Don't Bag Recyclables



All jars, glass and plastic bottles



Aluminum and metal cans



Wrapping paper



Clean plastic food containers and cups



Mail, magazines, newspapers and phone books



Cartons



EMPTY aerosol cans



Clean aluminum foil and trays



Styrofoam™ packaging and clean food and drink containers\*



Paper or frozen food boxes



Cardboard



Paper bags, Shredded paper (bagged and tied)



Plastic buckets, tubs, pots, trays and toys

## Trash



Plastic utensils and straws



Plastic wrap



Napkins, paper towels and tissue



Glassware



Snack bags and wrappers



Compostable products



Pet poop



Diapers

## Home Composting Bin



Shrub and tree trimmings



Leaves



Grass clippings



Food scraps



## Take yard waste to



5180 Convoy Street

## Household Hazardous Waste - Please call 858-694-7000 for disposal options.



Toxic products



Electronic waste



Paint



Bulbs



Batteries



Motor Oil



Needles and syringes



Propane and helium tanks

## Return to Retailer



Plastic bags



Styrofoam™ peanuts

## Donate Reusable Items



Small appliances



Clothing, textiles, toys, sporting goods and more!



\* If service provider is not the City of San Diego, check if your hauler accepts Styrofoam for recycling.

Detach and Save