

“Rolling in” the new bins. What to expect.

With the adoption of the new Solid Waste Management Fee, the City is providing new trash and recycling containers to ensure that only eligible properties receive City service and that customers are charged accurately based on the containers that are assigned and delivered to them.

Delivery of new gray City trash containers to City-serviced homes began Oct. 13, and arrival of new light blue City recycling containers is scheduled to begin this spring and will continue through late summer 2026.

Going into fall and winter 2026, the City will transition to delivering green organic waste containers for those who requested a change in size or quantity of their containers, as well as to replace the older model of City organic waste containers. If you do not have a green organic waste container at all, please let us know, and we will deliver one as soon as possible.

All deliveries are based on the service route by community and scheduled collection dates. Delivery date notifications will be sent to customers who opted to receive email or text alerts. Delivery dates cannot be scheduled or changed. If you cannot be home on your delivery date, please arrange with a friend or neighbor to set your old bins out for removal and pull in your new containers after delivery.

FIND OUT WHEN YOURS WILL ARRIVE

Check your delivery date online. Visit the new
Container Delivery Lookup: sandiego.gov/trash

Once your neighborhood receives the new gray and light blue containers, the City will no longer collect from the old black trash and dark blue recycling containers. The new colors help the City’s sanitation drivers quickly identify which containers to service.

Did you know that 75% of the old containers are more than 20 years old, which is well beyond their service life? The gray and light blue containers, being new, are less prone to breakage. Additionally, they have clearer recycling and trash labels to make sorting easier, and have a scannable tag that helps track performance and improve service.

If you have a lost or damaged container, please submit a request on Get It Done. City customers no longer pay separate fees for container repairs, replacements or deliveries.

Old bins won’t go to waste — they’ll be recycled and made into new containers.



Do I need to create a Portal account?

The Residential Waste Collection Services Portal has many benefits, including the ability to:

- ✓ Track your fee and service history.
- ✓ Request self-service for container changes.
- ✓ Receive email or text alerts from the City (such as bin delivery date, community cleanup events, recycling resources, and holiday collection schedule updates).
- ✓ Set up a secondary user to make changes to your account on your behalf.
- ✓ Request bulky item removal (available starting July 2027).

Visit sandiego.gov/trash to get started. Stay in the know, don’t wait!

What if I need different sizes or quantities of containers?

Within 30 days of the delivery date of your new gray trash container, you can swap it out for a different size or quantity through your online Portal account. The same 30-day window following delivery of new trash containers also presents an opportunity to update recycling container sizes. There will be no separate swap-out period following the delivery of recycling containers. The next opportunity to make service-level updates will be July 1, 2026.

What happens if I am a renter?

If you rent a property that receives City service, talk to your landlord or property manager to ensure your residence has the service level right for you.

What’s the new Solid Waste Management Fee? How am I being charged?

The new Solid Waste Management Fee is a cost-recovery trash fee, ensuring the modernization and sustainability of the City’s waste collection system. Adopted and authorized to be collected on the County tax roll by the San Diego City Council in June of 2025, the fee appears as a line item on your tax bill as: “SD Solid Waste Mgmt Fee.” For Fiscal Year 2026, the fee

is \$523.20 a year, due in two equal installments of \$261.60 (by Dec. 10, 2025 and April 10, 2026).

The fee is determined by the size of your *trash* bin. All City customers are being charged \$523.20 this year for the bundle that includes a 95-gallon trash container (the size used by the vast majority of customers as of July 1, 2025). To ensure all customers had access to the full level of service for which they were charged, Environmental Services Department (ESD) notified all customers that they could request a 95-gallon trash container if they did not already have one, and that ESD would deliver one.

As the new gray trash containers are delivered, customers who select a trash container smaller than 95 gallons will earn a credit toward next year's fee, which will appear on their 2026-2027 tax statement. Customers who opt for additional bins will incur an additional charge on their next year's bill. The adjustments, as applicable, will be prorated based on the period between when they receive their new container(s) and the end of June 2026.

The City is providing recycling and organic waste recycling containers at the 95-gallon service level only. However, customers may request smaller blue or green containers, available in 65-gallon or 35-gallon sizes, if they prefer the smaller size for space considerations, but the fee would be the same. Extra containers can be requested for additional monthly fees.

Sample County Property Tax Bill

Is there a way to dispute my fee if I believe I was charged in error?

Property owners can complete a Fee Claims and Dispute Form if they believe the new Solid Waste Management Fee they have been charged is incorrect. To find the form, visit sandiego.gov/trash and select the Fee Claims and Dispute Form button on the right.

Financial Assistance Program

We are committed to supporting members of the community who are in need. Thanks to the San Diego City Council's \$3 million General Fund allocation, and to generous donors who contributed more than \$60,000 to help their neighbors, ESD is launching a financial assistance program. Eligibility is based on household income, size or active enrollment in one or more specified assistance programs. Applications will be accepted from property owners while funds last. Visit sandiego.gov/trash and select Financial Assistance to learn more.

You've got questions. We have answers.

Please check our FAQs at sandiego.gov/trash for answers to common questions. If you need additional help, our Customer Services team can help with your service-level selections and answer questions at **858-694-7000**.

Don't Put Batteries in Your Bins!

Batteries are hazardous waste. When placed in your curbside bin (trash, recycling or organic waste), they can get crushed or punctured in collection trucks or at processing facilities, causing dangerous fires. Their toxic components can also harm workers and the environment.



Find battery collection event dates, local drop-off sites and Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility appointments: sandiego.gov/hazwaste

No Plastic Bags in the Blue or Green Bin



Plastic bags - including those labeled "compostable" - do not belong in your recycling or green organics bin. They jam equipment and contaminate materials.

What to do instead:

- ✓ Keep recyclables loose in the blue bin.
- ✓ Put organic waste loose or in paper bags in the green bin.
- ✓ Place plastic bags in the trash bin or visit wastefreesd.org to find locations that accept clean bags for recycling.

Reminder: Food Scraps Go in the Green Organics Bin

Fruit and vegetable trimmings, spoiled leftovers and food-soiled paper all belong in your green bin.



How to prepare your food scraps:

- ✓ Wrap in newspaper or paper bags, or
- ✓ Store them in the freezer until collection day

The City turns collected food scraps and yard trimmings into compost, which residents can pick up for free.

Learn more: sandiego.gov/sb1383

BIN PLACEMENT REMINDERS

How to position your bins correctly to ensure our trucks can safely collect your trash and recyclables



Keep bins away from obstacles.



Place bins out by 6 a.m.



Place bins 3 feet from any obstacle.

City of San Diego What Goes Where Guide

Dónde coloco los artículos?



Environmental
Services



ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING

RECOLECCIÓN DE RESIDUOS ORGÁNICOS



Food Scraps



Desechos de comida

Food-Soiled Paper

(paper towels, napkins, paper bags, parchment paper and coffee filters)



Papel manchado de comida
(toallas de papel, servilletas, bolsas de papel,
papel mantea y filtros de café)

Plant and Yard Trimmings



Recortes y desperdicios de jardín



RECYCLING RECOLECCIÓN DE RECICLAJE

All Recyclables Empty, Dry and Loose
Reciclables deberían estar limpios, secos, y vacíos



Aluminum and Steel Cans



Aluminum Foil and Trays



Glass Bottles and Jars



Latas y botellas de acero y aluminio
Charolas y papel de aluminio • Botellas y frascos de vidrio

Cardboard (empty and flatten)



Mixed Paper (shredded paper must be in a closed paper bag)



Paper Cartons



Cajas y cartón (vacío y aplano) • Papel mixto y papel triturado
(el papel triturado debe estar en una bolsa de papel cerrada)
Cartones de papel

Plastic Bottles, Containers, Lids, Hard Plastics, Toys, and Styrofoam Packaging



Botellas, tazas, envases, frascos, tapaderas, charolas, cubetas, tinas y
juguetes de plástico, bloques y envases de poliestireno



TRASH BASURA

When in doubt, throw it out.
Si tiene duda, va a la basura.

Hygiene Products, Diapers and Pet Waste



Productos de higiene, pañales, excrementos de animales
Platos y cristalería

Dishes and Glassware



Paper Plates, Cups and Takeout Boxes



Platos, vasos, y contenedores de comida desechables
hechos de papel. Servilletas y toallitas desinfectantes

Tissues and Disposable Wipes



Plastic Bags, Wrappers and Film



Plastic Straws and Utensils, Products Labeled "Compostable" or "Biodegradable"



Bolsas y envolturas de plástico
Popotes y utensilios desechables etiquetados como
"biodegradables" o "compostables"



plastic bags, bags labeled compostable or biodegradable, glass, food packaging, pet waste, plant pots, dirt, rocks, or any other non-organic material

Bolsas de plástico ni bolsas etiquetadas como compostables y biodegradables, vidrio, envases de comida, excremento de animales, macetas, tierra, piedras o cualquier otro material no orgánico.



plastic bags and wrap, clothes, hoses, wires, electronics, hazardous waste, batteries, paper napkins and towels, compostable and biodegradable plastics and diapers

Bolsas y envolturas de plástico, ropa, mangueras, alambres, electrónicos, desechos peligrosos y tóxicos, químicos, pilas, focos/tubos fluorescentes, servilletas y toallas de papel, plásticos biodegradables o compostables, y pañales.



food, yard waste, recyclables, electronics, hazardous waste, chemicals, batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs

Comida, recortes de jardín, artículos reciclables, electrónicos, desechos peligrosos y tóxicos, químicos, pilas y focos/tubos fluorescentes.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



NO Batteries, Toxic Products, Electronic Waste, Paint, Bulbs, Motor Oil, Needles and Syringes, Propane and Helium Tanks and Chemical Cleaners.

Do not dispose of these items in the trash, recycling, or organic waste recycling! Avoid fires by bringing hazardous waste to Miramar Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility for free, by appointment only. Call 858-694-7000 or visit sandiego.gov/hhw for more information.

NO Baterías, Productos Tóxicos, Residuos Electrónicos, Pintura, Focos, Aceite de Motor, Aguja y Jeringuillas, Tanques de Propano y Helio y Limpiadores Químicos.

¡No desheche estos artículos en la basura, el reciclaje o el reciclaje de residuos orgánicos! Evite incendios llevando los residuos peligrosos al Instalación de Transferencia de Residuos Domésticos Peligrosos de Miramar de forma gratuita, sólo con cita previa. Llame al 858-694-7000 o visite sandiego.gov/hhw para obtener más información.