# City of California City

Residential Waste & Recycling Newsletter
Winter 2026



From holiday collection reminders to winter service tips, this issue is packed with helpful information to keep your WM services running smoothly. WM and the City of California City are also sharing resources to help residents recycle right and support California's SB 1383 organics recycling requirements. Learn more at https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp.

## Residential Cart Service

Residential service includes one 96-gallon recycling cart serviced every other week, one 64-gallon organics cart serviced weekly, and one 96-gallon trash cart serviced weekly.

## Wrapping Paper: Recycle or Trash?



The holiday season brings plenty of excitement... and lots of wrapping paper! But before you toss it into your recycling cart, it's important to know that not all wrapping paper is recyclable.

**Recycle:** Plain paper gift wrap, kraft paper, paper gift bags (with handles removed), and cardboard gift boxes.

**Trash:** Metallic, foil, glitter-covered, laminated, or heavily decorated wrapping paper. These materials cannot be processed through standard recycling systems and belong in the trash cart.

**Quick Test:** Crumple the wrapping paper into a ball. If it stays crumpled, it's usually recyclable. If it unfolds right away or has a shiny metallic finish, place it in the trash.

## Holidays

WM observes the following holidays.

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

When your collection day falls on or after one of these holidays, your collection will be delayed by one day that week only. Visit home.wm.com/california-city for a collection calendar.

## Container Color Updates



California law requires collection containers statewide to follow a standardized color scheme by 2036. As carts are replaced, California City residents will see:

**Blue lid** = Recycling

**Green lid** = Organic Waste

**Black lid** = Trash

Please check your cart lid or label for disposal guidelines to help keep recyclable and organic materials free of contamination.

## Holiday Meals Made Simple



Holiday meals bring family and friends together, but they can also create extra food waste. A little planning can help you save money, reduce waste and make cleanup easier.

**Plan ahead:**

- Make a shopping list based on your menu to avoid buying more than you need.
- Coordinate with guests so everyone brings just the right amount.

**Prep smart:**

- Collect food scraps as you cook to make cleanup quick and easy.

**Compost food scraps:**

- Compost food scraps and leftovers at home, or place them in your organics cart instead of sending them to the landfill.
- Small steps can make a big difference, helping you enjoy the season while reducing waste.

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## Start the New Year with Less Clutter

As you settle in for winter and look ahead to the new year, consider clearing out items that no longer serve a purpose. Old furniture, mattresses, appliances and other bulky household items can take up valuable space in your home, garage or storage area.

WM provides up to three (3) free bulk item pickups per year, making it easy to dispose of unwanted items responsibly and free up space for the year ahead.

Before setting items out for collection, schedule your pickup at least 48 hours before your collection day. Visit **home.wm.com/california-city** to review accepted materials, preparation requirements and schedule your pickup.

## Holiday Tree Recycling

You can recycle your holiday tree at the curb or in your organics cart on your regular collection day during the first two weeks after December 26 at no additional charge.



## Curbside Tree Recycling

Remove all decorations, lights and stands. If your tree is taller than 4 feet, cut it in half before setting it out for collection.

## Organics Cart Tree Recycling

Remove all decorations, lights and stands. Cut the tree into 2-foot sections, place them in your cart, and make sure the lid closes completely.

## Holiday Tree Drop-off

You may also drop off your tree during the first two weeks after December 26 at WM located at 19201 Neuralia Rd, California City, CA 93505. Remove all decorations, lights and stands. If your tree is taller than 4 feet, cut it in half before dropping it off.

## Holiday Wreath Recycling

Remove all decorations, ribbons, wire and other non-organic materials. Place it in your organics cart, and make sure the lid closes completely.




## Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste, including batteries, sharps, household cleaners, pesticides, paint and automotive fluids, can be taken to the following Kern County facilities:

**Mojave Special Waste Facility**
17035 Finnin St.

1st Saturday of odd-numbered months
(Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sept., Nov.)

9 a.m. to noon

**Ridgecrest Special Waste Facility**
3301 W. Bowman Rd.

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Metro Kern Special Waste Facility (Bakersfield)**
4951 Standard St.

Monday-Saturday | 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## One-Day Kern County Collection Events

For upcoming dates and locations, call Kern County Public Works at (661) 862-8900 or visit **kerncountypublicworks.com**.

# Organics | Recycling | Trash

Right Materials - Right Container - Know Which Container to Use

## What Goes in the Organics Container:


Food Waste


Yard Waste


Food Soiled Paper, Coffee Filters & Tea Bags


Meat, Fish & Poultry


Dairy


Bread, Pasta, Rice, Grains, Coffee Grounds



**Do Not Include:**
Plastic Bags or Film
Serveware/Utensils
Plastic or Foam Containers
Palm Fronds
Rocks, Concrete, Dirt or Sod
Animal Waste
Hazardous Waste
Fats, Oils or Greases

**Put food waste in a paper, clear or compostable plastic bag and place in your organics cart.**

## What Goes in the Recycling Container:



Plastic Bottles, Cups & Containers


Paper & Paper Cups


Glass Bottles & Containers



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cans


**Place recyclables directly into your recycling cart -**
**Don't bag your recyclables.**



**Do Not Include:**
Food or Liquids
Bagged Recyclables
Foam Containers
Furniture or Carpet
Batteries
Electronics
Hazardous Waste
Yard Waste

## What Goes in the Trash Container:


Foam Cups & Containers


Garden Hose


Broken Ceramic Dishes & Pots



Candy, Snack & Food Wrappers


Plastic Bags & Film


Diapers


Pet Waste


Succulents & Palm Fronds



**Do Not Include:**
Food Waste
Recyclables
Hazardous Waste
Electronics
Batteries
Tires or Paint
Flammable Material

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## Organic Waste Recycling: Small Actions, Big Impact




### Why Recycle Organic Waste?

Keeping food scraps and yard waste out of landfills helps reduce methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Recycling organics is an easy way to support a cleaner, healthier community.

### Recycle Organics the Right Way

Place food scraps, yard trimmings and other organic materials in your green organics container. Paper bags, cardboard boxes and certified compostable bags that meet ASTM D6400 standards are acceptable. Do not use plastic bags, as they can contaminate compost and damage processing equipment.

Looking to take the next step? Consider starting a backyard compost pile. Learn more at **www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/homecompost**.

### Benefits to Our Community

When organic materials are recycled instead of landfilled, they can be turned into valuable compost and other useful products. This helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, supports soil health and protects our environment for future generations. For more information, visit **www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/slcp**.

### Prevent Food Waste

Plan meals carefully, store food properly and donate edible food whenever possible.

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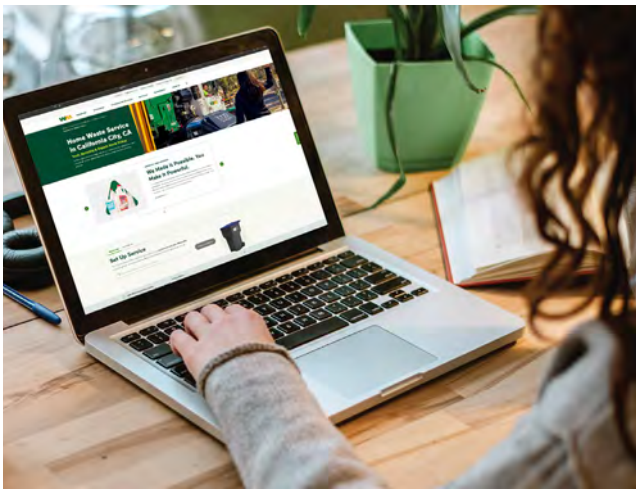
### Manage and Pay Your WM Bill Online

Paying your WM bill is quick and convenient with My WM. View and pay invoices, enroll in AutoPay and paperless billing, manage your account, access service schedules, and request additional services, all in one place.

**Get started today:** Visit **wm.com/mywm** or download the My WM App.

**Prefer to pay by mail?** Send payments to:

WM
P.O. Box 541008
Los Angeles, CA 90054-1008



### Connect with WM

### Your Community Website

Access your WM service information in one convenient place. Find your collection schedule, local service information, and submit service requests. Visit **home.wm.com/california-city**.

### Let's Chat

Get support for your WM service online. Find answers to common questions, access self-service resources, or connect with a customer service representative. Visit **wm.com/support**.

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