



It's Time to...

ReThink Your Food Waste

Have You Heard About SB 1383 and Organic Waste Diversion?

Senate Bill 1383 is the State of California's mandate for the separation of household organic waste, comprised of green waste, wood waste, food waste and soiled paper/cardboard waste, in an effort to reduce greenhouse gases.



So Why Do We Need Mandatory Organics Recycling?

Organic waste in landfills is one of our biggest contributors to greenhouse gases. So, the State of California passed SB 1383 to require the diversion of the organic waste so it doesn't end up in the landfill.

What Does This Mean for You?

As of January 1st, 2024, your green can is now your Organic Waste Can. If you currently have a green waste exemption, the refuse division will be delivering a green can as the green waste diversion exemption no longer qualifies for can removal.

To meet state mandates, phase 1 of diverting food waste in our green organics waste can will require placing the food waste in a separate plastic bag with the green waste remaining loose in the can.

Food waste starts in the kitchen, **PLACE ACCEPTED ORGANIC ITEMS IN A SEPARATE PLASTIC BAG** and when you're done, **TIE IT UP AND PLACE IT IN THE GREEN CAN.** This will allow the food waste to be removed for processing and aids in SB1383 compliance.

The City of Merced, with the use of the SB1383 Local Assistance Grant, was able to do a one time purchase of 2-gallon kitchen pails to distribute to our residential customers for food waste diversion use in the kitchen. We hope this will assist in having a successful organics diversion program.



Questions? We can help!

Contact the Public Works office at 209.385.6800 or by email at publicwks@cityofmerced.org
Information can also be found at cityofmerced.org/organics or at calrecycle.ca.gov

Para asistencia en Español favor de llamar al: (209) 385-6800.

Yog xav tau daim flyer no ua lus hmoob, thov hu rau tus xov tooj (209) 385-6800.

Green Can Do's and Don'ts

Phase 1 of diverting food waste in our green waste organics can starts in the kitchen. Place accepted organic items in a separate plastic bag and when you're done, tie it up and place it in the GREEN can. This will allow the food waste to be removed for processing and aids in SB1383 compliance. The green waste will continued to be placed loosely in the green can.

ACCEPTABLE FOOD WASTE ORGANICS: (BAGGED)

- Food Waste
- Food Soiled and Uncoated Paper, Paper Towels, and Newspaper
- Paper Plates and Paper Straws - Uncoated
- Paper Cupcake or Muffin Wrappers - Uncoated
- Cardboard or Paper Egg Cartons and Cardboard Berry Baskets
- ToGo Containers that are Uncoated Paper or Cardboard (no metal or plastic)
- Coffee Grounds, Paper Coffee Filters, Food Soiled Paper Coffee Cups and Cup Sleeves
- Cloth Tea Bags (plastic free)
- Brown Paper Bags
- Uncoated/Untreated Wooden Utensils, such as Chopsticks, Coffee Stirrers, Popsicle Sticks, Ice Cream Spoons, Skewers, Toothpicks and other Wooden Utensils
- Compostable Utensils and Plates
- Compostable Bags
- Wine Corks (cork)



NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THE GREEN CAN:

- Animal Feces or Kitty Litter
- Foil
- Metal or Plastic To-Go Containers or Packaging
- Household Garbage
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Styrofoam
- Liquids or Cooking Oil
- Recyclables such as Plastics, Glass, Metal and Clean Paper Products
- Coated Paper and Coated Paper Products



ACCEPTABLE GREEN WASTE: (NOT BAGGED)

- Grass Clippings
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Tree & Shrub Trimmings
- Small Branches & Limbs (cut to fit can)
- Untreated Wood Waste



NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THE GREEN CAN:

- Palm Fronds
- Oleander
- Lawn Furniture
- Plastic Containers
- Treated/Painted Wood

