



Recycling/Organics/Trash Contamination Monitoring and Enforcement

Under California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), cities across California including the City of Fountain Valley, are required to take steps that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring the recycling of organic waste and enforcing stricter regulations on waste disposal to reduce the amount of trash going to the landfill.

As required by the State to ensure compliance with SB 1383, local jurisdictions must establish and implement enforcement programs that monitor recycling, organic, and trash carts for contamination starting January 2024.

What is Recycling Contamination?

Contamination occurs when you place items in the wrong cart. For example, if you are putting all your recyclables in plastic bags, the plastic bag would be considered a contaminant because it is not accepted in the recycling program. Please empty your organics and recyclable materials directly into your carts to give them the best chance of becoming new products. Each waste cart has a guide on top of the lid showing what materials are acceptable. Detailed information on the correct placement of materials is also available on the City's Recycling webpage.

Why Reducing Contamination Matters

As we mentioned previously, contaminants can have serious negative consequences for your recycling program. Here are just a few examples:

- **Your cart may not be emptied** – If the driver who collects your cart notices a large amount of contamination, he/she may not be able to empty your cart.
- **Degrading material values** – Contamination will degrade the quality of the recyclables, which in turn lessens their market value and may even render baled materials unmarketable.
- **Reducing recycling rates** – Contamination can cause materials that would otherwise be recycled to be landfilled. For instance, bottles and cans can get lodged in film wrap or plastic bags and will end up landfilled instead of sorted.
- **Breaking recycling machinery** – Not all recycling machinery is equipped to take all types of material. Some items, like plastic film/bags, can jam up sorting equipment if it is put in the recycling container.
- **Causing safety hazards for recycling workers** – Some materials need to be collected a certain way due to safety concerns for recycling workers. For instance, medical or electronic waste can be a very dangerous contaminant if it is added to the recycling container.

What happens if I do not properly sort my recyclables/organics/trash?

Upon identification of prohibited contaminants in the cart by the waste hauler, businesses and residents may receive a contamination notice. Businesses and residents will be provided with warnings and educational material to aid in compliance prior to any fines being issued.



Will my carts be inspected?

SB 1383 requires the City or a designee to inspect containers for contamination (materials being placed in the wrong cart) and notify the resident of contamination while providing education.

CONTAMINATION NOTICE
AVISO DE CONTAMINACIÓN
THÔNG BÁO VỀ TÌNH TRẠNG BỊ Ô NHIỄM

We noticed something wrong in your cart. / *Notamos algo mal en su contenedor. / Chúng tôi thấy có điều không đúng trong thùng rác của quý vị.*

Property address / *Dirección de la propiedad / Địa chỉ bất động sản:*

Date and time / *Fecha y hora / Ngày và giờ:*

Republic Services representative / *Representante de Republic Services / Người đại diện Republic Services:*

Cart contaminated / *Carrito contaminado / Thùng rác bị ô nhiễm:*

RECYCLING / *RECICLAJE / TÁI CHẾ*

ORGANICS / *ORGÁNICOS / RÁC HỮU CƠ*

TRASH / *BASURA / RÁC THẢI*

Contaminated with / *Contaminado con / Bị ô nhiễm với:*

RECYCLING / *RECICLAJE / TÁI CHẾ*

ORGANICS / *ORGÁNICOS / RÁC HỮU CƠ*

TRASH / *BASURA / RÁC THẢI*

Today, we have collected your contaminated materials. After three instances of contamination found, you may be charged a fee. Photographic evidence has been collected. Contact Recycle437@RepublicServices.com for more information.

Hoy hemos recogido sus materiales contaminados. Después de tres casos de contaminación encontrada, se le podrá cobrar una cuota. Se ha recopilado evidencia fotográfica. Póngase en contacto con Recycle437@RepublicServices.com para obtener más información.

Hôm nay chúng tôi đã thu gom những thứ gây ô nhiễm. Sau ba lần phát hiện tình trạng bị ô nhiễm bạn có thể phải chịu một khoản phí. Chúng tôi đã chụp hình ảnh làm bằng chứng. Liên hệ với Recycle437@RepublicServices.com để biết thêm thông tin.

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Remember to properly separate your materials as follows: / *Recuerde separar adecuadamente sus materiales de la manera siguiente: / Hãy nhớ phân loại rác của quý vị như sau:*



RECYCLING / *RECICLAJE / RÁC TÁI CHẾ*

- ✓ Paper and cardboard / *Papel y cartón / Giấy và bìa các-tông*
- ✓ Metal cans / *Latas de metal / Lon bằng kim loại*
- ✓ Plastic and glass / *Plástico y vidrio / Nhựa và thủy tinh*



ORGANICS / *ORGÁNICOS / RÁC HỮU CƠ*

- ✓ Yard waste* / *Desechos de jardín* / Rác sân vườn**
- ✓ Food waste / *Desechos de comida / Rác thực phẩm*
- ✓ Food-soiled paper and paper bags / *Papel manchado de comida y bolsos de papel / Giấy dính thực phẩm và túi giấy*

*Residential or mixed organics accounts only



TRASH / *BASURA / RÁC THẢI*

- ✓ Polystyrene foam / *Espuma de poliestireno / Bột polystyrene*
- ✓ Diapers and pet waste / *Pañales y desechos de mascotas / Tã và phân thú vật nuôi*
- ✓ Plastic bags and wrap / *Bolsos y envolturas de plástico / Túi nhựa và màng bọc nhựa*
- ✓ Toys / *Juguetes / Đồ chơi*
- ✓ Clothing and bedding / *Ropa y cubiertas de cama / Quần áo và tấm trải giường*
- ✓ Dishes and mirrors / *Platos y espejos / Chén đĩa và gương*
- ✓ Garden hoses / *Mangueras de jardín / Ống nước tưới vườn*
- ✓ Non-recyclable plastics / *Plásticos no reciclables / Đồ nhựa không thể tái chế*

Enforcement

All cities are required to meet state mandated compliance or risk financial penalties. Non-compliant businesses and residents may receive notices of violation, penalties, and/or possible denials of service if contamination is seen during inspections.