

April - June 2023



Pleasanton Garbage Service Inc.

Commercial News

Have you received a compliance letter from Stopwaste? Enforcement has begun.

California State law SB1383 and the Alameda County Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance (ORRO) require businesses, nonprofits, institutions, schools, and multifamily properties to arrange for food/green waste and recycling collection service, have the correct indoor bins, and sort materials correctly. Some businesses must also recover and donate their surplus edible food.

Enforcement of these rules is a collaborative effort between StopWaste, the cities of Alameda County and their solid waste service providers, as well as the environmental health departments in Alameda County. Warnings (a "Notice of Violation") are given before a citation is issued. Fines range from \$50-\$500.

For more information about the requirements, free resources, requesting free support, and enforcement/violations visit StopWaste.org/rules and for additional information about the edible food recovery program visit StopWaste.org/rules-food-recovery.

Common Contaminants

Plastic bags are the most common contaminant in our recycling and food/green waste (compost) streams; please do not bag recyclables/compostable materials. The following items are also **NOT** allowed in either your recycling or food/green waste (compost) containers and must go in the trash.




The below items are **NOT** allowed in the garbage, recycling or food/green waste containers and must be taken to a Recycling and/or Household Hazardous Waste Facility. For a complete list of what can go into each container visit the RE:source curbside guide at Resource.Stopwaste.org/curbside.



Soft & Stretchy Plastics are Trash

Soft & stretchy plastic items are **NOT** accepted in PGS's recycling programs. Common soft and stretchy items that go into the garbage container include:

- Cleaning wipes
- Face masks
- Plastic gloves
- Plastic storage bags
- Plastic packaging
- Plastic shopping bags
- Film or stretch wrap
- Bubble wrap/envelopes
- Condiment packets
- Food packaging - such as foil bags, cereal/cracker box liners, chips/candy wrapper.

Remember that the  symbol does **NOT** always indicate that an item is recyclable. Follow PGS's How-to-Guides. For easy options to reuse, repair, recycle, or safely dispose of just about anything, search StopWaste's RE:Source guide at Resource.Stopwaste.org/.



To learn more about the requirements, find free resources, and request free support, visit StopWaste.org/rules.
Español, 中文, 한국인, & Tiếng Việt StopWaste.org/rules-languages.

PGS Assistance and Resources

PGS offers the following assistance and resources:

- **Free Waste Assessments**
To help you determine your organization's garbage, recycling, and food/green waste (compost) service needs.
- **Free Set-up & Ongoing Support**
To help keep your program running smoothly.
- **Free Resources**
 - Indoor food/green waste (compost) containers (supplies limited).
 - Posters & instructional materials.
 - Annual waste sorting training by PGS staff (by request only) for employees, tenants, and/or contractors at your business to comply with SB 1383/ORRO.
 - For additional StopWaste free resources like free stickers for indoor bins, free indoor green bins, and waste sorting training videos please visit: StopWaste.org/rules/resources.



Available in various sizes and shapes.

How Landfills Work

Modern landfills are carefully engineered and managed facilities for the disposal of our garbage. A landfill is an excavated area in the ground that is filled up in multiple sections called cells. Modern landfills have liners to prevent groundwater contamination. Trucks and machinery will dump trash into one area (cell) until it is full. A full cell is then closed, and dumping begins in a new cell. Once a landfill is full it must be permanently closed. Keeping recyclable and compostable materials out of landfills extends their lifespan.



When compostable materials are landfilled, methane is produced. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas that fuels climate change. When recyclables (glass, metal, and plastic) are landfilled viable resources are wasted that could have been reused and made into new products. Recycling reduces emissions associated with resource extraction and manufacturing.

Californians throw away nearly 6 million tons of food waste each year. This represents about 18 percent of all the material that goes into landfills. In order for California to reach its goal of 75% source reduction Californians must reduce food waste and compost.

Simple everyday actions like refusing single use items, reducing waste, reusing items, recycling, and composting are important steps that Californians can take to conserve resources and fight climate change.

What items are accepted in our food/green waste carts and bins?

All compostable materials produce methane when placed into a landfill. Compostable materials include anything that was once alive, including food scraps, food soiled paper products not lined with plastic, paper towels, wet/soiled cardboard, pizza boxes, plant debris, and untreated wood.

