

# Organics Composting



Sustainability in Action

## Why have mandatory organics programs?

California throws away more than 6 million tons of food waste every year. Food waste alone is 17-18% of the debris disposed of in California and our landfills are filling up. By putting your food scraps in your green organics cart instead of the trash, you are helping reduce disposal in landfills and it also doesn't waste water like a garbage disposal.

Food decomposing in the landfill creates methane gas, which is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and contributes to global warming and climate change. Go to [ci.benicia.ca.us](http://ci.benicia.ca.us) or [RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA](http://RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA) for more information.

The food scraps collected in your green organics cart will be turned into compost, which enriches the soil and produces better plants and vegetables. The compost is returned to Benicia and offered free to help recharge your garden and yard.

## What can I put in my green organics cart?

COMPOST
COMPOSTAR

**BAGS:** Compostable BPI (meets ASTM 6400 Standard); Paper Bags; No Bags  
**BOLSAS:** Compostable BPI (cumple con la norma ASTM 6400); Bolsas de papel; Sin bolsas

**NO METAL**  
NO SE ACEPTA METAL

**NO GLASS**  
NO SE ACEPTA VIDRIO

**NO PLASTIC**  
NO SE ACEPTA PLASTICO

**NO HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
NO SE ACEPTAN MATERIALES PELIGROSOS

Customer Service/Servicio al Cliente: (925) 685-4711 or (707) 747-0608 • [www.RepublicServices.com](http://www.RepublicServices.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. I use my garbage disposal for food scraps. Why should I use this program?** You may cause sewer line blockages by putting food and grease down your garbage disposal. By placing food scraps in your green organics cart, you will help to reduce sewer blockages, impact climate change and the food will be reused and turned into compost – a rich soil amendment.
- 2. Why can't I dispose of my food scraps in regular plastic bags?** Plastic bags and other plastic products are not compostable so they can't be placed in the green organics cart. The material in your green cart will be turned into a soil amendment, and plastics must be kept out to prevent contamination. If a bag must be used, look for a certified compostable label that says "Compostable BPI-Meets ASTM 6400 Standard." You may also use paper bags, newspaper or paper towels.
- 3. Why can't I place compostable plastic utensils in my green organics cart?** Compostable plastic cups, utensils, and to-go containers are designed to break down over time, but their decomposition takes much longer than a normal composting cycle at the compost facility. Therefore, they are NOT accepted in the program. Certified compostable bags are acceptable because they break down quickly.
- 4. Can I use plastic bags labeled as "biodegradable?"** No. The term "biodegradable" is not regulated whereas compostable is. Products labeled as "biodegradable" can take several months to decompose. Certified compostable plastic bags are designed to decompose in an industrial compost facility.
- 5. Can I put pet waste in my green organics cart?** Pet and human waste are NOT accepted in this program. Pet waste, used bathroom tissue, diapers, toilet paper, and hair should all be placed in your garbage cart. This is to reduce possible bacteria in the finished compost.
- 6. How can I keep my food scrap pail clean?** Try lining the pail with newspaper, paper towels, or a compostable plastic bag (Compostable BPI-ASTM 6400 Standard). Empty the pail into the green organics cart every few days to keep it fresh. You can also keep your pail in the fridge or freezer and empty the pail the day before your service day.

## How does food scrap collection work?

Use your two-gallon food scraps pail. If you don't have one, contact customer service at (707) 747-0608 and request one. This pail has a tight-sealing lid with a handle for easy storage underneath your kitchen sink. You can line your pail with newspaper, paper towels or paper bags if you want, but it's not necessary. NO PLASTIC BAGS. Put your food scraps into your pail and then empty it into your green organics cart.



### Pail It

Use a food scrap pail to store your food scraps. Empty the contents of the pail into your green Organics cart. One pail provided per unit at no extra cost.



### Line It

Line your pail to keep it clean. Use paper towels, a paper bag, newspaper, or a compostable bag (BPI-Certified). Dump everything (including the lining) into the green Organics cart. You can also skip the liner and rinse the pail as needed.



### Compost It

Put fruits, vegetables, dairy products, breads, meat, seafood, food-soiled paper, and landscape waste in the green Organics cart for weekly service to be turned into compost and kept out of the Landfill!