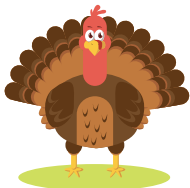




2019-2020 Holiday Collection Schedule, S.F.

THANKSGIVING DAY

- Recology will provide regular collection service for recycling, composting, and trash Thanksgiving week, including Thanksgiving Day. The customer service office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but the "Contact Us" form on [Recology.com](#) is always available.
- Thursday customers: Please put bins out the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving Day as normal collection-time windows may be affected.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WEEKS

- Only Wednesday customers affected.
- Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Wednesday. To allow Recology workers to be with their families, there will be no collection service and the customer service office will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25 and New Year's Day, Jan. 1.
- Wednesday customers will be serviced on three straight Saturdays during the holidays: Dec. 21, Dec. 28, and Jan. 4.
- Wednesday customers: Please put your bins out the Friday night before Saturday collection as normal collection-time windows may be affected.
- Regular Wednesday service resumes Jan. 8.



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| DEC. 16 Regular service | DEC. 17 Regular service | DEC. 18 Regular service | DEC. 19 Regular service | DEC. 20 Regular service | DEC. 21 Pre-Christmas service for Wed. customers | DEC. 22 Regular service |
| DEC. 23 Regular service | DEC. 24 Regular service | DEC. 25 No service | DEC. 26 Regular service | DEC. 27 Regular service | DEC. 28 Pre-New Year's service for Wed. customers | DEC. 29 Regular service |
| DEC. 30 Regular service | DEC. 31 Regular service | JAN. 1 No service | JAN. 2 Regular service | JAN. 3 Regular service | JAN. 4 New Year's service for Wed. customers | JAN. 5 Regular service |

The post-season journey of S.F. Christmas trees

San Franciscans celebrate the holidays in many notable ways. One that continues for many residents is putting up a Christmas tree. Tree lots appear at key locations throughout the city in late November. On weekends and evenings the lots teem with activity as customers search for the perfect tree. The fragrance of cedar, pine, and noble fir fills the air. At home, a Christmas tree becomes a focal point during this wonderful time. But what happens to a tree when the holidays are over? Fortunately, San Francisco enjoys a robust Christmas tree recycling program.



Place trees on the curb next to your bins on your scheduled collection day.

It's a major undertaking with 500 tons of Christmas trees collected off city sidewalks in the first two weeks of January. Regular Recology crews service black, blue, and green bins once a week on residential routes. To gather Christmas trees from every residential route in the city and transport thousands of trees, Recology assigns designated crews to pick up residential Christmas trees exclusively. From January 2 to January 15, Christmas tree collection crews make an extra pass on scheduled residential routes to pick up trees. Discarded trees are brought to the Recology Transfer Station near the Candlestick Exit off Highway 101. Every day during the first half of January the pile grows. Last year, local media dubbed the enormous heap "Mt. Christmas Tree." Through much of January, Recology workers feed the trees into a large and powerful grinder that reduces them into wood chips. For that month, the smell of Christmas is prominent at Recology.



The Christmas Tree Collection program runs Jan. 2–15, 2020

Please place trees next to your compost bin the night before **your scheduled collection day**. Trees will be collected curbside by a dedicated tree truck on your collection day. Please remove all plastic bags, lights, decorations, tinsel, and stands. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half.

The chips are transported to Recology Blossom Valley Organics near Modesto and turned into mulch. The ground cover is used in commercial landscaping projects. The natural pitch in the chips is acidic and helps control weeds. People who want to keep it real, but don't want a cut tree, can "adopt" one from Friends of the Urban Forest. FUF, in partnership with the San Francisco Department of the Environment and Hayes Valley Art Works, offers living, potted Christmas trees in November and December. Customers get a three-to-six-foot-tall, non-traditional tree to bring home, decorate, and enjoy. The trees get returned after the holidays and used in the Neighborhood Tree Planting program. For more info, go to [FUF.net](#).

The best way to contact us is through email: CustomerService@RecologySF.com





HOLIDAY ESSENTIALS

Enjoy the feasts & compost all food scraps

Oh, how we enjoy holiday feasts. The home-cooked meals of traditional fare and all the fixings. The savory bites. The tasty desserts.

During the holidays, the biggest food weeks of the year, please remember to give thanks and joy to local farmers by placing all food scraps from festive occasions in your green curbside composting collection bin.

Food scraps from the preparation of meals — vegetable peelings, eggshells, coffee grounds, bones, and other residual foods — and plate scrapings represent vital resources to those who grow our food.



That's because food scraps contain fats and oils and are rich in vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients. These elements greatly appeal to farmers because to grow healthy fruits and vegetables they must feed

the microorganisms that are the life of soil. The environmental benefits achieved from our collective participation in San Francisco's curbside composting collection program are remarkable.

By composting we've kept 2 million tons of food scraps out of landfills and avoided producing many landfill gas emissions. The compost made from our scraps gives farmers a superior alternative to chemical fertilizers and helps farms save both water and energy. And vineyards use our compost to grow cover crops like mustard that pull carbon out of the atmosphere and return it to the soil where it belongs.

Knowing these environmental benefits, please remember to put all food scraps from holiday meals in a kitchen compost pail and empty those scraps into your green composting collection bin. The holidays present the best opportunity of the year to start and continue composting, and thereby participate in a local program that helps protect the environment in multiple ways.

Don't forget the planet when making your list

10 GIFT IDEAS FOR MOTHER EARTH

San Francisco produces 17 percent more trash during the holidays. Here are 10 simple actions we can all adopt, gifts for the planet if you will, to help lessen the tons of trash we send to landfill during this season of celebration:

- 1. Break down cardboard boxes** from online shopping to save space in your bin for recycling.
- 2. Use fabric or reusable gift bags for wrapping presents.** Avoid metallic wrapping paper because it is not recyclable.
- 3. Plastic bags pollute oceans and harm fish, seabirds, turtles, and whales.** Whenever possible, **decline plastic bags** when buying items for holiday meals and gifts.
- 4. Avoid purchasing foods and products shrink-wrapped in film plastic.** Like plastic bags, plastic wrap is made of film or flimsy plastic, for which there are few end markets.
- 5. Choose glass containers over plastic** when buying condiments such as mayo and mustard for turkey sandwiches. Glass bottles and jars get recycled in the Bay Area. Plastic is more difficult to recycle and must be transported great distances.
- 6. Compost all vegetable peelings** from holiday meal prep. Composting benefits the environment in multiple and significant ways. See "10 Reasons to Compost" posted on the Recology site [BetterAtTheBin.com](https://www.betteratthebin.com).
- 7. The holidays are the biggest food weeks of the year.** After enjoying holiday meals, remember to **put all plate scrapings in the green bin** so they can become the compost farmers use to nurture the soil.
- 8. Empty all bottles and cans** from holiday gatherings to prevent liquids from spoiling paper in recycling bins. Paper and cardboard constitute 80 percent of the material in San Francisco recycling bins.
- 9. Shake out food containers** to keep food and oils out of your blue bin. Like emptying liquids from bottles, shaking out food containers helps San Francisco protect the quality of recycled paper.
- 10. Globally we consume 1 million plastic bags a minute, including zip-top plastic bags. Switch to reusable containers for storing holiday leftovers.**



Refuse rates for low-income households

San Francisco households that qualify to participate in PG&E's low-income rate program, CARE, may also receive a 25 percent discount on recycling and trash collection.

Households receiving premium service or accounts with more than one unit are ineligible for this program.

To confirm your qualification, simply email or mail a copy of the first page of your current PG&E bill showing participation in the CARE program. The name and address on your PG&E account must match the name and address on your Recology account, and you may be asked to verify annually.

Email: CustomerService@RecologySF.com
Recology's mailing address:
250 Executive Park Blvd., Suite 2100,
San Francisco, CA 94134.

Check us out on social media for quick tips, events, recycling news, and more!



@Recology



Facebook.com/Recology

The best way to contact us is through email: CustomerService@RecologySF.com