



## Reduce, reuse, recycle & rot (compost)



Local farms and vineyards use compost made from food scraps collected in San Francisco to nurture topsoils and grow cover crops.

In trying to help protect the environment, reducing the amount of trash we make is one of the most effective things we can do. We are encouraged to buy only what we need and make full use of what we have.

When out and about we can keep a metal water bottle and a canvas carry bag handy. Those simple steps are examples of reuse that avoid creating trash.

Now let's talk recycling and composting. Materials placed in recycling bins go to recycling plants. Food scraps tossed in composting collection bins go to compost facilities.

But materials tossed in garbage bins go to landfills. Once materials go in a landfill they never come out. Landfills also produce potent greenhouse gases, much of which escape into the atmosphere.

In contrast, recycling keeps materials out of landfills, helps protect our air and water,

provides materials for manufacturing, and creates local, green jobs. Like recycling, composting keeps materials out of landfills and generates more jobs than landfilling. Compost collection programs also return nutrients to local farms.

Adding a layer of compost to farmland feeds the microbes in the soil and stimulates microbial activity. That supports soil health. Healthier soils help grow stronger, healthier plants.

Healthy plants are resistant to invasive insects and disease. Compost also softens the soil and allows plant roots to travel further through the dirt and reach more nutrients.

So when cities establish urban composting collection programs and send food back to farms in the form of finished compost, farmers can grow and sell more fruits and vegetables. In this way, city

dwellers who participate in composting collection programs help produce healthy fruits and vegetables for family tables and neighborhood restaurants.

Robust plants also conduct more photosynthesis, the process by which plants take energy from the sun and grow. Through this process plants also transfer carbon from the atmosphere to the soil, where it belongs. Additionally, some farms and vineyards use compost made from food scraps collected in San Francisco to grow cover crops that sequester carbon in the soil. This process turns farms into carbon sinks that absorb carbon and nitrogen.

For all these reasons and more, please practice the four R's every day. Doing so is one of the most effective ways we can all help protect nature, and that benefits everyone.

## Please break down cardboard boxes

San Franciscans face a new challenge in their quest to increase recycling — a proliferation of cardboard boxes.

Many people now place orders online via computers and smart phones to purchase just about anything, and those orders arrive in cardboard boxes. It is not unusual to see boxes stacked in an apartment building entry or on a neighbor's porch.

Here is the consequence: Often people toss the opened box in a recycling bin without breaking it down or flattening it. When this happens, the intact box can take up much of the bin's volume, making it difficult for other people to recycle their boxes as well as bottles, cans, and paper.

When you need to recycle a cardboard box, please break it down. That way the pieces can fit inside a recycling bin and still leave room for other recyclables.

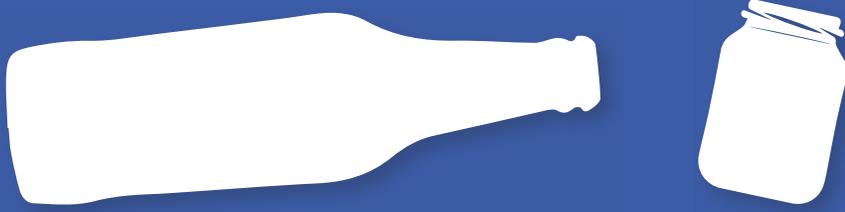
Recology purchased and installed special equipment at Recycle Central, the large recycling plant on Pier 96, specifically to sort and recycle cardboard.

Breaking down cardboard boxes and recycling as much as we can helps our City make progress toward zero waste, a movement that aims to eliminate landfill disposal. Thank you for considering these points and doing your part.

Flatten or cut cardboard to allow room for all recyclables in the blue bin.



# Bottles in blue



and glass jars too.



## Local solution — Place glass bottles in blue

**G**lass containers placed in a blue bin in San Francisco go to Recycle Central, the large recycling plant on Pier 96. There, glass bottles and jars are separated from other recyclables.

Glass recovered at Recycle Central goes to San Leandro for further processing and separation and then to Modesto, where it is made into new glass bottles and jars that can reappear on store shelves in less than six weeks.

That is a great example of local recycling. It's a model environmental advocates love to see. Local recycling solutions avoid the expense and environmental impacts of transporting materials long distances.

Glass is made from sand, which is mostly made of silicon dioxide. When we recycle glass containers, we save this

precious resource and help protect our environment.

Glass bottles and jars are 100 percent recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without any loss in purity or quality. Recycling glass reduces emissions and consumption of raw materials, extends the life of manufacturing equipment, and saves energy.

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours or a compact fluorescent bulb for 20 hours. Recycling glass causes 20 percent less air pollution and 50 percent less water pollution than making a new bottle from raw materials.

Also, recycling programs and facilities, including Recycle Central and other glass processing plants, create and support local, green jobs. Recycling creates 10 times

more jobs than landfilling or incineration. To make it easy for customers to recycle bottles and other glass containers, Recology provides blue curbside recycling bins, stickers, and other outreach materials. And we post a lot of information and photos about recycling on our website [RecologySF.com](http://RecologySF.com).

To further encourage customers to recycle glass containers, we came up with a catchy call to action: Bottles in blue and glass jars too. You will see this message on the lids of many blue bins in San Francisco and on public service ads placed by Recology.

Whenever you wish to recycle a glass bottle or jar, please go for the blue bin. When you do, you engage a powerful local solution that helps achieve multiple benefits.

## How to recycle household batteries

### AT SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

If you live in a house, duplex, or multifamily building with five or fewer units and need to recycle household batteries, just follow these simple steps:

Please put your expired AA, AAA, C- and D-sized batteries in a clear, sealable plastic bag and put the bag on top of your black trash bin.

Your Recology trash collector will pick up the bag and toss it in a bucket designated for used batteries on the side of the route collection truck.

We ship used batteries to companies that take them apart and recycle the pieces.

San Francisco residents can recycle small lithium batteries through this program, but must place tape over the ends of the lithium batteries.

This program is not for computer, car, motorcycle, or large-appliance batteries.

It is important to keep household batteries out of the landfill. Batteries have been banned from California landfills since 2006.

Please take advantage of this convenient program and recycle your batteries.

### AT APARTMENT BUILDINGS

We encourage customers to opt for rechargeable batteries, but if you live in an apartment building with six or more units and use regular batteries, we'll recycle them.

Please place your expired AA, AAA, C- and D-sized batteries in the orange battery recycling bucket in your building's lobby or trash area.

Recology provides battery recycling buckets to apartment buildings at no additional cost.

When the bucket is full, call us at the number listed on the bucket's sticker. We will exchange your full bucket for an empty one and recycle the old household batteries.

If an apartment building needs an orange bucket, the building manager can call our Customer Service Department and order one.

City residents can recycle small lithium batteries through this program, but must place tape over the ends of the lithium batteries. This program is not for computer, car, motorcycle, or large-appliance batteries.

We have met with many apartment tenants this year and are impressed with their desire to fully participate in San Francisco's recycling programs, including the household battery recycling program.



### RECYCLING, COMPOST, AND TRASH COLLECTION:

Recology Sunset Scavenger  
(415) 330-1300

Recology Golden Gate  
(415) 626-4000

Debris Box Service  
(888) 404-4008

BulkyltemRecycling.com  
(415) 330-1300

