



HELP SAVE RESOURCES

After holiday celebrations, go for the blue bin



Noe Valley resident Spring Utting is an enthusiastic recycler.

This time of year presents excellent opportunities to recycle, compost, and reduce waste. The amount of discards generated from parties and commerce associated with gift-giving increases by about 15 percent during the holidays. Beginning with Thanksgiving, the winter holidays

include the biggest food weeks of the year. San Franciscans do a good job composting food scraps — putting eggshells, vegetable peelings, and other trimmings in kitchen compost pails and emptying them into their green composting collection bins. Please remember to ball up and

recycle aluminum foil and trays that are reasonably clean. Aluminum tossed in a blue bin gets sorted, baled, and sent to a foundry to be made into new products. Beverages served at celebrations and meals mean more bottles and cans in the blue bin. Please empty all liquids from containers before recycling to help keep recycled paper **clean and dry**. Breaking down paper and cardboard boxes saves space in the blue bin you may need for the extra recycling this holiday season. Awareness about the importance of protecting the environment is increasing. As we reconnect with family and friends, it is good to remember that recycling and composting are things we can do every day to help. Recycling paper and cardboard saves trees. Composting food scraps keeps compostable materials out of landfills and helps improve soil health on local farms. Every time we recycle and compost, we keep materials out of the landfill and help save natural resources, which helps protect the environment for all. ■

Monthly rates to increase in 2024

The Refuse Rate Board for the City and County of San Francisco on Aug. 31, 2023 unanimously approved a two-step increase to the recycling, composting, and landfill collection rates charged to residential properties. Collection rates, charged monthly, will increase 1.33 percent on Jan. 1, 2024 and an additional 2.55 percent on Oct. 1, 2024. Commercial rates will increase by the same percentages. At the City’s request, the Rate Order includes more frequent collection of public receptacles, upgrades to Recology’s contamination monitoring technology, improvements to the illegal dumping collection program, increases in commercial cardboard collection, and improved route safety. The monthly rate for standard three-bin residential refuse collection in San Francisco totaled \$46.87 in 2023. On Jan. 1, 2024 that rate will increase to \$47.40 per month. On Oct. 1, 2024, the rate will be \$48.71. Those rates are significantly lower than rates charged for standard three-bin residential service in San Jose and Oakland. After the increases are implemented, a typical single-family home in San Francisco will pay \$10.06 less per

Comparison of monthly charge for standard residential refuse collection

Weekly pick up of three bins — landfill, recycling, and composting

CITY	MONTHLY RATE
San Francisco	\$46.87
San Jose	\$58.25
Oakland	\$58.77

month, an annual savings of \$120.72, for three-bin service compared to a single-family home in Oakland. Low-income households in San Francisco may be eligible for a 25 percent discount on Recology curbside collection service if they provide proof of program eligibility. Contact the Recology Customer Service Department for more information if you are interested in participating in this program. ■

What's in your pail?

When it comes to composting kitchen scraps, San Franciscans show their stuff.

On garbage day, green composting collection bins stand tall on neighborhood streets. They contain mostly food scraps, sticks, and leaves.

Residents typically toss their scraps into a kitchen compost pail, while restaurants and other businesses often use a taller, narrower bin that fits next to food-prep counters. These kitchen containers are then emptied into green curbside composting bins.

It may seem counterintuitive, but placing food scraps in a kitchen pail reduces odor. That's because you isolate anything that might smell in one container.

Put one or two used paper napkins or paper towels in the bottom of your kitchen pail to absorb moisture and reduce odor.

Then, in go all the materials that can be composted. Here's a good guiding rule: Just about anything from a farm can be composted. Examples include banana peels, eggshells, coffee grounds, tea bags, vegetable peelings, and avocado skins and seeds.



Remember: No plastic and no glass in composting bins.

The seasons influence what goes in the kitchen pail. Summer food scraps often include melon rinds, citrus peels, and corn cobs. In the winter, it's squash skins, stems from dark, leafy greens, and the outer leaves of cabbages.

Don't forget to toss in bones from meat and fish. Curbside composting programs break down bones, even shells from mussels and oysters, spoiled lunch meat too.

The high temperatures reached at commercial composting facilities can turn all kinds of scraps into finished compost.

Walnut shells, peach pits, and wooden popsicle sticks are welcome.

The greater the variety of scraps, the better. It all contributes to the nutrient-rich finished compost that goes onto local farms and vineyards.

Empty and give your kitchen pail a rinse before you go to bed, and it will be fresh and ready for the next day's scraps. ■



Holiday Collection Schedule, San Francisco



ATTENTION MONDAY CUSTOMERS:

Both Christmas and New Year's fall on Mondays. There will be no collection service on Christmas and New Year's days to allow Recology workers to be with their families.

During the holidays, crews will service Monday customers on three consecutive Saturdays. Monday customers are asked to please put their bins out the Friday night before Saturday collection on Dec. 23, Dec. 30, and Jan. 6.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec. 18 Regular Service	Dec. 19 Regular Service	Dec. 20 Regular Service	Dec. 21 Regular Service	Dec. 22 Regular Service	Dec. 23 Service for Monday Customers
Dec. 25 No Service Christmas Day	Dec. 26 Regular Service	Dec. 27 Regular Service	Dec. 28 Regular Service	Dec. 29 Regular Service	Dec. 30 Service for Monday Customers
Jan. 1 No Service New Year's Day	Jan. 2 Regular Service	Jan. 3 Regular Service	Jan. 4 Regular Service	Jan. 5 Regular Service	Jan. 6 Service for Monday Customers



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION, JAN. 2–12, 2024. Please place clean, unflocked trees at the curb next to your compost bin the night before your collection day. Remove all tinsel, decorations, plastic bags, stands, and lights. If your tree measures more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half.

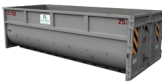
Check us out on social media for quick tips, event info, and recycling news:



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Debris Box Dept.
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