

## Vallejo Waste Zero Ways

2025 SUMMER





#### IT'S EASY BEING BATTERY SAFE

Lithium-ion batteries from everyday electronics can spark dangerous fires when thrown in the garbage or recycling.

- → Tape contact points with clear tape.
- → Keep them in a cool, dry place.
- → Learn more safe disposal tips at recology.com/ batterysafety.





Drop off household batteries for free at the Recology Materials Recovery Facility, 2021 Broadway Vallejo, 8 AM – 3:30 PM Thursday–Saturday.



## plastics - RECYCLABLE OR LANDFILL

Plastic bags and other soft, flimsy plastics should not go into your recycling cart.

When flimsy plastics enter Recology sorting lines, they can get caught in equipment. This creates disruptions and safety hazards as workers must stop operations and remove the tangled plastic from the machinery. Additionally, **plastic bags are not opened on the sorting line**, so this material is unlikely to be sorted.

Practice "loose load" recycling by placing your recyclables directly into your blue cart.

If you are unsure whether a plastic item can be recycled, consider its quality. We accept large, rigid plastics for recycling. These plastics generally retain their shape when crushed. If a plastic item is too small, flimsy, flexible, or can be squished into a ball, we cannot accept it.

Visit the Recology website, whatbin.com, for more details.

RIGID PLASTICS → water bottles, large tubs, laundry jugs (empty!), plastic cups, clamshells. Put these items in your blue recycling cart.







FLIMSY PLASTICS → plastic bags (including thick "reusable" ones from grocery stores), film plastics, shrink wrap, food/candy wrappers, bubble mailers, small condiment containers, straws, utensils. Put these items in your gray landfill cart, or, better yet, find a reusable alternative.







### COOL YOUR COALS BEFORE DISPOSAL

Please do not dispose of BBQ coals and ash before they are fully cooled. Even if they seem cold, ashes can hold heat and melt Recology containers or set other materials on fire.





Allow at least 48 hours for coals and ash to cool to ensure they no longer present a fire hazard. Spread them out and stir in some water

to help speed the extinguishing process.

If your charcoal is free of additives or if you burned pure wood, you could use the cooled material for at-home compost or place it in your green organics cart.

Briquettes or other coals with additives need to be placed in the landfill. An empty charcoal bag or regular garbage bag can be used to collect the cooled ashes and then put in your gray landfill cart.

# we're hiring

### INTERESTED?

Apply online by going to recology.com and clicking Careers.

We are currently hiring mechanics and bilingual (Spanish) customer service representatives.



### IT'S THE LAW

### Put food scraps, yard trimmings in the green cart

California's Senate Bill 1383, passed in 2022, requires all residents, businesses, and schools to participate in organics collection to help reduce landfill materials and methane emissions.

Food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper should be placed into your green organics container. In addition to sorting correctly, you can prevent the creation of waste by planning meals, storing food properly, and composting at home when possible.

Sustainable landscaping can prevent excess water usage and save you the time and energy of maintaining a yard. VALCORE offers Earth Machine backyard compost bins for purchase, along with free composting classes. Community composting programs and food recovery initiatives provide ways to reduce food waste and support local needs.

Compostable materials sent to the landfill do not break down properly. This produces high levels of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. About 20% of California's methane production comes from food rotting in landfills.

Because items in the gray bin go directly to the landfill, it is important to correctly sort all your discards before collection. Participating in organics recycling not only ensures compliance with SB 1383 but also helps protect the environment and enhances the health and safety of our communities.

