

FALL/WINTER 2026 | FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOME RESIDENTS

RETHINKER

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks.

The Rethinker newsletter is dedicated to educating residents and businesses regarding waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. With your help, we can meet our goal of diverting waste from the landfill and maintain healthy, livable communities.

RethinkWaste
Administrative Offices
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Rethink waste
South Bayside Waste Management Authority
A Public Agency

HOLIDAY PICK-UP SCHEDULE

There will be **NO** recycle, compost, and landfill collection services on **Christmas Day Friday, December 25, 2026 and New Year's Day Friday, January 1, 2027**. If your regular collection day falls on or after the holiday, your service will be **DELAYED BY ONE DAY**. Regular collection will resume the week of January 4, 2027.

DECEMBER MONDAY 21	DECEMBER TUESDAY 22	DECEMBER WEDNESDAY 23	DECEMBER THURSDAY 24	DECEMBER FRIDAY 25	DECEMBER SATURDAY 26
Regular Service	Regular Service	Regular Service	Regular Service	No Service	Service for Friday Residents

DECEMBER MONDAY 28	DECEMBER TUESDAY 29	DECEMBER WEDNESDAY 30	DECEMBER THURSDAY 31	JANUARY FRIDAY 1	JANUARY SATURDAY 2

HOLIDAY TREE COLLECTION AND SCHEDULE JANUARY 4–29

Holiday tree collection will take place on your regularly scheduled pick-up day, starting the week of January 4, 2027.

For proper TreeCycling, please follow these easy steps:

1. Remove **ALL** decorations and tree stands.
2. Place tree **NEXT TO** your green compost bin.

After January 29th, please cut the tree to fit inside your compost cart or contact Recology for a special pickup.



Flocked trees are accepted but cannot be recycled.

HOLIDAY CARDBOARD RECYCLING REMINDERS

Online shopping and holiday deliveries can quickly fill up your curbside recycling bin. To save space and avoid overages, please **flatten all cardboard** boxes before placing them in your recycling bin.

If you have additional or oversized cardboard that will not fit in your recycling bin, bring it to RethinkWaste's Public Recycling Center (PRC) at the Shoreway Environmental Center, where it can be recycled at no additional cost. The PRC is open seven days a week.

For open hours and a full list of accepted items, visit RethinkWaste.org/PRC.

Reminder: Keep all bin lids closed to prevent rain and moisture from contaminating recyclable materials. Properly recycling cardboard helps conserve natural resources and keeps valuable materials out of landfill.





COMPOSTING IS THE LAW

Composting is Required — Here is What You Need to Know

If you live in a single-family home, this applies to you. California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383 law requires all single-family properties to have compost (organics) service. This statewide effort helps reduce landfill waste and planet-warming emissions while creating healthier communities for everyone.



Why Composting Matters

When food waste breaks down in landfills, it generates methane — a powerful greenhouse gas.

By composting, you're helping:

- Reduce climate pollution
- Turn food scraps into valuable, nutrient-rich soil amendments
- Keep California communities cleaner and greener

Questions?

Visit RethinkWaste.org/SB1383 to learn more or email us at SB1383@RethinkWaste.org

What Goes in the Compost Bin?

Composting is easier than you think!

✔ YES — Compost These

- **Food scraps** (fruits, vegetables, leftovers, meat, and bones)
- **Food and beverage soiled paper products** (napkins, paper towels, and pizza boxes)
- **Yard trimmings** (plants, leaves, and small branches)

✖ NO — Keep These Out:

- **Plastics of any kind** (including items labeled "compostable")
- **Non-paper materials, packaging, wrappers, and fruit labels**

RETHINKWASTE LAUNCHES SELF-GUIDED VIRTUAL TOUR

RethinkWaste is excited to introduce our first Self-Guided Virtual Tour, a new way to explore what happens to recycling, compost, and landfill materials after it leaves your home. This visually engaging experience mirrors our in-person Shoreway Tours Program and is designed for community members who are unable to attend on-site or live staff-led virtual tours.

The Self-Guided Virtual Tour uses interactive visuals, videos, GIFs, and clear explanations to guide viewers through the RethinkWaste-owned Shoreway Environmental Center. The content reflects what participants typically learn from tour guides during an in-person visit, helping build a better understanding of waste reduction, resource recovery, and facility operations.

Take the tour anytime by visiting RethinkWaste.org/SelfGuidedTour



CONTACT INFORMATION

For more frequent Zero Waste tips and resources, follow us on social media and sign up to our electronic newsletter at RethinkWaste.org/Rethinker or scan here to sign up now:

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RethinkWaste is a public agency and joint powers authority of eleven member agencies* that owns the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos.

*RethinkWaste Member Agencies: Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, County of San Mateo, West Bay Sanitary Districtt