



Living Green

Protecting our community's health and the environment by providing solid waste and sewer collection services



Costa Mesa Sanitary District
(949) 645-8400
www.cmsdca.gov

Fall 2015
Quarterly Newsletter

What goes into your new organics recycling cart?

The Costa Mesa Sanitary District's new organics recycling program has been implemented! Now that you have your organics cart, place these items into it:

- Yard Debris: grass clippings, leaves, weeds, tree and shrub trimmings, prunings, and flowers
- Kitchen Scraps: fruit, vegetables, bread, pasta, fish, meat, poultry, bones, dairy, and FOG (fats, oil, and grease)
- Kitchen pail liners, such as newspaper or *compostable* bags

Everything else will go into your recycling/waste carts, including any kind of plastic containers or bags, Styrofoam, diapers, and wipes.

Initially, each household received one 64-gallon organics cart. If you find that you need an additional organics cart, you can request a second cart at no additional cost. If you need a third organics cart or a third recycling/waste cart, there will be a fee of \$8 per cart per month.

Your current service day has not changed. On your regular collection day, all of your carts should be placed at curbside no later than 6:30 a.m. with the handles and wheels facing toward your home. Please

place carts side by side approximately 1 foot apart and at least 3 feet away from any obstruction, such as parked cars, trees, and mailboxes. Carts must be



removed by midnight the day of trash collection.

After collection, the recyclables/waste will be taken to CR&R's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Stanton, CA. The recyclables are separated from trash using a combination of manual and mechanical sorting. At this same facility, contaminants will be removed from the organics before they are loaded into semi-trailers for transport to CR&R's Anaerobic Digestion Facility (AD) in Perris, CA. The AD facility will convert all organics (yard and food waste) into fertilizer and

renewable natural gas to fuel CR&R's collection vehicle fleet.

These combined processes ensure that the maximum number of recyclables are recovered from the waste stream and that all organic waste is kept out of the landfill.

Learn more about CMSD's organics recycling program at www.cmsdca.gov/organics.

Still wondering how organics recycling will work in your kitchen or your yard?



Organics Recycling Program

We know many residents have questions about the new program. To help you understand how to prepare kitchen scraps and yard debris, as well as how to use the kitchen pails, we have created a short how-to video. In less than five minutes, you'll get step-by-step instructions, see what does and does not go into the organics cart, and learn where to purchase compostable food scrap bags. You'll also begin to understand why CMSD is part of this innovative program and how it helps our community and our state achieve waste diversion goals. To watch the video, go to: www.cmsdca.gov/organics.

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Costa Mesa Sanitary District
628 W. 19th Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-2716

Organics Cart



clip & save



Yard

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Prunings
- Flowers



Kitchen

- Fruit
- Bread
- Fish
- Meat
- Vegetables
- Dairy
- FOG (Fats, Oil, Grease)
- Compostable Bags



Place All Other Items In The Recyclables/Waste Cart



- Glass (beverage, liquor, soda, juice, wine and jars)
- Metal (aluminum and tin)
- Plastics #1-#7
- Paper & Cardboard Products
- Ceramic
- Food Trays
- Coat Hangers
- Tupperware Containers
- Mirrors
- Diapers
- Plastic Plates
- Styrofoam



Kitchen Pails Still Available

You can easily collect food scraps with a kitchen pail. You can put food scraps directly into the pail, or you may choose to line your pail with newspaper or *compostable* bags. When you are done with food preparation or your meal, simply empty your kitchen pail into your organics cart.

Kitchen pails are still available at no charge to residents at District Headquarters, located at **628 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa** (next to DMV). Office hours are Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Limited quantities are available; pails will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Kitchen pails are limited to one pail per resident.

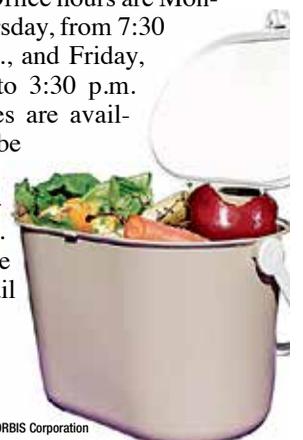


Photo courtesy of ORBIS Corporation

Bulky trash? No problem!

The Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) provides residents with convenient curbside collection for large or bulky items. Residents with curbside trash and recycling service are eligible for three (3) free bulky-item pickups per year. Bulky items might include furniture, mattresses, rugs, appliances, and other items that do not fit into your trash containers. There is a limit of 10 items per pickup. However, collections can be combined for a total of 30 items per calendar year. A list of items must be provided when scheduling the appointment with CR&R, the CMSD contracted hauler. Items that are not on the list will not be picked up. To schedule a pickup, please call CR&R Customer Service at (949) 646-4617.



This program is available to current CR&R customers only. Residents who live at properties which have dumpsters are not eligible for this program. Please ask your property manager, landlord, or the dumpster company about how to dispose of your bulky trash.

The CMSD bulky-item program is provided so that residents have a safe and legal option for disposal of hard-to-handle items. Please do not abandon your used mattresses or furniture on the curb or in alleys. It is ILLEGAL to dump items on public property, including public rights-of-way. If you see abandoned items on public property, please report it to the City of Costa Mesa Streets Division at (714) 754-5123. The City will not pick up items on private property.

Remember—if you have usable furniture and appliances, consider selling or donating them.

Thinking BIG for reuse



When you're looking for a new set of dishes or a lamp, it's easy to find them in local thrift shops or at flea markets. Yet you might walk right by larger items, like couches, kitchen tables, beds, and appliances. Why is that? Your local Goodwill, Salvation Army store, and Habitat ReStore offer larger items for sale and can also help you find a home for your old furniture and appliances.

When cleaning out your home, sometimes you have more stuff cluttering your space than you can handle. Goodwill and The Salvation Army accept usable items from large, such as furniture and appliances, to small, such as dishes, decorative items, clothing, shoes, and handbags. These organizations use your donations to help improve the lives of people in our community with everything from job placement to housing services. So while you are doing a good thing for the environment by ensuring that your old, usable stuff is reused, you are also doing something good for our community. Both organizations provide tax-deductible contribution receipts for donations.

Habitat for Humanity will also take

your bulky goods. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore accepts donations of used construction supplies and old building materials, such as wood flooring, roofing materials, shingles, tiles, fixtures, and plumbing and piping. They use the materials or sell them and use the proceeds to build houses for low-income families. They also accept home furnishings and appliances.

If you are looking for furniture and appliances, remember to shop secondhand first. Goodwill, The Salvation Army, and the ReStore are great places to start. Plus, you can look in furniture reuse stores, which are a great place to shop, especially for young adults and college students moving into their first apartments. You will often find unique items in secondhand shops, giving you the chance to give your home some personality without creating unnecessary waste.

The next time you are ready to say goodbye to something old, think about selling it or giving it away. You might be finished using something that someone else would love and appreciate. Reuse is always a great idea, no matter how big the challenge.

7 ways to reuse every day

Recycling gets most of the headlines, but the other two Rs, reduce and reuse, deserve more credit because they actually prevent discards—no recyclables and no trash. Because there are hundreds of ways you can turn items into something new (and thousands of Pinterest boards to show you how), reuse can sometimes seem overwhelming, especially if you aren't much of a do-it-yourselfer. But it doesn't have to be overwhelming at all! Reuse can be quick and easy. Here are seven simple ways to incorporate reuse into your day:

1. Carry a reusable water bottle. Reusable water bottles reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy used to produce plastic, and transportation costs to get water to stores. By bringing a bottle to meetings and outdoor events, you can avoid buying plastic water bottles or using disposable cups. Tap water is just as good as bottled water (and much cheaper!). If you love the taste of filtered water, invest in a water filter pitcher that you can use at home or the office.
2. Keep a reuse bin in your kitchen. Anytime you come across a paper clip, twist tie, paper tube, plastic tub, glass jar, rubber band, plastic bag—anything that can be reused!—place it into this bin. Before purchasing anything new, look through your reuse bin to see if you can use what you already have on hand. Glass jars and a little ribbon become instant centerpieces, and plastic bags can serve as packaging materials to cushion shipments. Be sure to label and organize the bin so that you use what's inside!
3. If anyone in your family packs a lunch or snack, use a reusable lunch box or bag and washable containers. These containers are easy to fill and reuse, and they keep everything fresh until it's time to eat. The bag and some ice packs can also act as a mini cooler. You can even reuse an old drink bottle to make your own ice pack. Just fill an empty bottle about three-quarters full of water, leave the lid off, and set it into the freezer. By morning, you can screw on the cap and, ta-da, you've created an ice pack. Say goodbye to brown bag lunches and single-use plastic snack bags!



4. Bring your own reusable shopping bags to the grocery or other store. You can find these bags at most major retailers, or, if you're feeling crafty, make your own with old fabric or a worn T-shirt and some creativity. Some stores will even give you a small discount for using your own bags. Keep the bags in your car or by the front or back door so you never forget to use them.
5. Use cloth napkins and dish towels in the kitchen instead of their paper counterparts. Clean up any large messes with rags made by cutting up old clothing or bath towels. Throw everything in the wash and use it again!
6. Turn leftovers into new meals before they go bad. Make yesterday's grilled chicken into chicken fettuccine or transform old stir-fry vegetables into taco filling. Everyone will forget dinner was once leftovers and gobble it down.
7. Visit your local library for books, CDs, and DVDs instead of purchasing new ones. Some libraries even have magazines to check out so you can avoid the extra paper waste.

Reuse doesn't have to be time-consuming or require super-human craft skills. You can easily make it part of your routine. If you reuse every day, it will be easy to reduce your waste and make your life a little more eco-friendly!

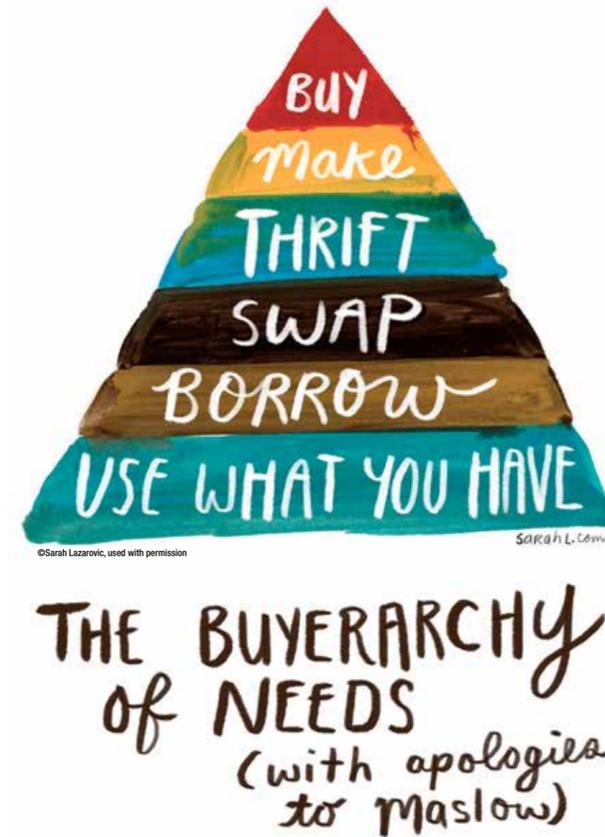
Keep your drains FOG-free

Fats, oil, and grease are among the top causes of sewer blockages and backups

Fats, oil, and grease in the sewer can build up on the side walls of pipes and actually reduce the diameter of the pipe. When this occurs, you can end up with slow drains, standing water, or worse, sewer backups. Follow these simple tips to keep your drains running smoothly:

1. NEVER pour fats, oil, or grease (FOG) down the drain or into toilets.
2. Use a funnel to pour cooled fats, oil, and grease into a covered, disposable container. You can drop off fats, oil, and grease for recycling at the Orange Coast College (OCC) Recycling Center, which is located on Adams Avenue between Harbor Boulevard and Fairview Road. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. FOG recycling is free!
3. Soak up FOG from pots, pans, and dishes with a paper towel and dispose of this greasy paper towel in your organics cart with your food and yard waste.
4. Before you wash dishes, scrape food scraps from your plates and dispose of those plate scrapings in your kitchen pail or directly into your organics cart.
5. Use sink strainers to catch any remaining food waste while washing dishes. Empty the strainer into your kitchen pail or organics cart.

To learn more about the effects of FOG or our FOG recycling program, please call the CMSD at (949) 645-8400, or visit our website, www.cmsdca.gov.



It's easy to think about buying used or buying less. But what about using what you already have and not buying anything at all?

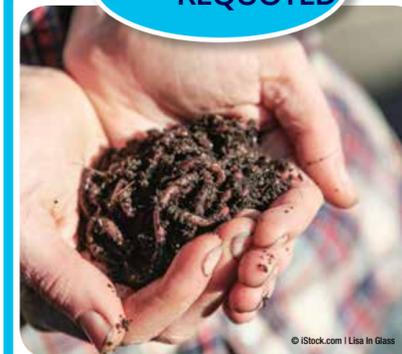
Artist Sarah Lazarovic tackles this question in her book, *A Bunch of Pretty Things I Did Not Buy*. By looking back on her own spending habits, she explains how we've moved from simply being consumers, buying what we need and using it, to overconsumption.

Lazarovic decided to counteract this trend in her life by not buying any clothes or housewares and taking her time, encouraging others to try her method.

"I'm slow, steady, and intent on quality," she writes. "What I love best is how time often reveals a solution to what I need that doesn't involve buying."

In a culture that encourages us to race to the sale or make a purchase before it's "too late," it's hard to think about not buying or doing so slowly. But following Lazarovic's Buyerarchy of Needs shows how many other ways there are to find "new" stuff. Buying only what you want and need means you will use what you own, creating less waste both in your life and in the world.

QUOTES REQUESTED



A cloak of loose, soft material, held to the Earth's hard surface by gravity, is all that lies between life and lifelessness.

Wallace H. Fuller
In Soils of the Desert Southwest, 1975

Keep those wipes out of your pipes!

From baby wipes and kitty litter to cleaning rags and personal hygiene products, many products are advertised as "flushable." Although these items may be technically "flushable" since they will pass through your toilet, they can cause costly damage farther along in the sewer system.

Despite the claim of being "flushable," these items DO NOT dissolve and disperse like regular toilet paper and can cause blockages in pipes that were never designed to handle such materials. The resulting toilet overflow can leave you with a smelly and expensive problem to fix in your home. This can become an even bigger smelly and expensive problem for the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) to clean up when those items block and overflow the sewer system or have to be removed from pump stations or at a wastewater plant.

Your part in this is simple: Please

remember that toilet paper is the only item you should dispose of in the toilet after use.

Things like baby wipes, personal cleansing wipes, cleaning rags, personal hygiene products, pop-off scrubbers on toilet cleaning wands, makeup removal cloths, and other "flushable" materials should NEVER be flushed down the toilet. They should be discarded properly in a trash can.

By following this guideline, you can avoid the potential for thousands of dollars of damage taking place in the pipes within and below your own home and under our streets. Plus, you will help in CMSD's efforts to keep down repair and maintenance costs that are associated with the removal of these items.

For more information, please visit www.what2flush.com or go to www.cmsdca.gov and check out our Sewer System FAQs.



Clear out unneeded chemicals

The average American home has 100 pounds of unused chemicals in storage. Think about the unnecessary chemicals on your shelves—why hold onto them when there are safe and efficient ways to get them out of the house?

When you have chemicals that you no longer need, they are considered household hazardous waste, or HHW. This includes automotive fluids, lawn and garden chemicals, paint, cleaners and solvents, pool chemicals, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, batteries, medical sharps, and medications. If you see words like "poison" or "caution" on the label, you are looking at hazardous waste!

HHW is even more dangerous than bulky waste when illegally dumped because it can seep into the groundwater, waterways, and our ocean, causing contamination of the water and other health hazards. Hazardous waste never belongs in the trash, where it could cause a fire or explosion in the truck or result in chemical burns and injuries to workers.

When preparing your HHW for disposal, keep all items in their original, labeled containers and do not mix them together. When loading HHW into your vehicle, place items (no more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds) into a cardboard box as far away from passengers as possible. Then deliver your HHW to one of Orange County's four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers (HHWCCs). All Orange County residents can use these facilities at no charge. The HHWCCs are located at 17121 Nichols



Buy in bulk the smart way



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There's a holiday for everything, and bulk foods are no exception! October 11 through 17 is National Bulk Foods Week, sponsored by the Bulk Is Green Council. Bulk foods are a great way to save money and reduce packaging waste, and this week will mean special savings in select bulk foods stores. It's the perfect time to start thinking about how to buy in bulk in a way that reduces waste instead of creating it.

On average, buying organic foods in bulk costs 89% less than buying them in regular packaging. With those savings,

you'll want to make the effort to be smart about buying in bulk! Not only will you reduce food waste, but you'll also reduce the amount of packaging you purchase every year and help make the Earth a little more healthy.

There are certain foods that last longer in bulk. Non-perishables, such as dried beans, rice, and pasta, snack foods, like chips and popcorn, salty condiments, such as mustard and ketchup, hard candy, and paper products, such as toilet paper, tissues, or paper towels, all last a long time and are frequently used

items that won't be left on the shelf. Put these at the top of your bulk shopping list.

The main question to ask yourself when buying in bulk is, "How much do I need?" Non-perishables can be bought in large quantities and will sit on the shelf until you need them, but fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meats require more careful consideration. If you don't eat a lot of a type of food, it doesn't make sense to buy a large quantity of it. If you won't be able to finish it before it goes bad, put the big pack back on the shelf.

Once you get your bulk foods home, make sure to store them properly. Put food in air-tight containers and refrigerate or freeze what can't be left out. Keep food that you need to eat in a visible place so that it's not forgotten during the week. Place food that is in danger of spoiling in an "eat me first" area in your fridge.

If you do purchase perishable foods in bulk, consider freezing what you can't cook or eat before it expires. Meat is the easiest to freeze, but most foods can be frozen with a little preparation. Blanch vegetables before they go bad and dry fruits before storing them in the freezer. Fruits like berries and ripe bananas can be frozen without drying and then thrown into a smoothie or batch of muffins. Citrus fruits, like lemons, limes, and oranges, can be sliced and frozen on a flat sheet. After they are frozen, remove them from the sheet and place them into a container. Use the frozen slices to give some flavor to water and other drinks.

Canning, pickling, and boiling are other options for extra food. Almost any vegetable can be canned, and fruit can easily be turned into jam. Boiled bones or vegetable scraps can become soup stock. More than cucumbers can be pickled for a tasty treat.

If you buy a food item in bulk and it spoils before you can eat it, composting is a good option. You can place spoiled fruit and vegetables, along with peels, rinds, egg shells, tea bags, and coffee grounds, into your backyard compost bin. Your spoiled food and scraps can create compost to help you grow your own plants! If something spoils, remember to buy less of that item or cook it faster in the future. If you don't compost in your backyard or if you have food waste that can't go into your backyard bin, remember to put spoiled food into your organics cart.

Gear up for National Bulk Foods Week and start preparing a list of what your family could purchase in bulk. Then head to your local store and start helping your wallet and the Earth!

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Put our app to work for you!



The CMSD is the first Independent Special District to provide a customized mobile app for our residents! In developing the app, our goal was to provide residents with convenient access to District information on their smartphones. The app features easy-to-use widgets. Using the app, residents can find information on District programs and events. In addition, residents can report

issues directly to the District through the GOREquest system and then track the status of those issues. Issues can be reported anonymously if preferred.

The free app is available for download at the iTunes App Store or the Google Play Store. Simply search for "Costa Mesa Sanitary District."

Employee Spotlight



The District would like to recognize Ed R., our part-time Code Enforcement Officer, in this quarter's employee spotlight. Ed started working for the District in July 2014 and knows the City well. Ed came to CMSD with a lot of experience in the field of Code Enforcement, having worked as a Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Costa Mesa and as a Police Officer in another municipality. As a Code Enforcement Officer, Ed is responsible for investigating all CMSD violations and enforcing District ordinances and policies, such as scavenging and carts left in public view. Ed is currently being trained on the District's Sewer Lateral Assistance Program (SLAP) in order to be knowledgeable about SLAP violations from plumbers so that he can be dispatched to investigate potential violations and better assist the public.

Ed's willingness to learn and enduring positive attitude are an asset to CMSD. He is a dedicated individual who uses highly developed interpersonal skills to assist violators in correcting violations in a tactful manner. Ed communicates well with the public and has received many compliments for his politeness and work ethic. We can always count on him to provide the public with the highest standard of customer service.

Congratulations, and thank you for all you do, Ed!

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Costa Mesa Sanitary District
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