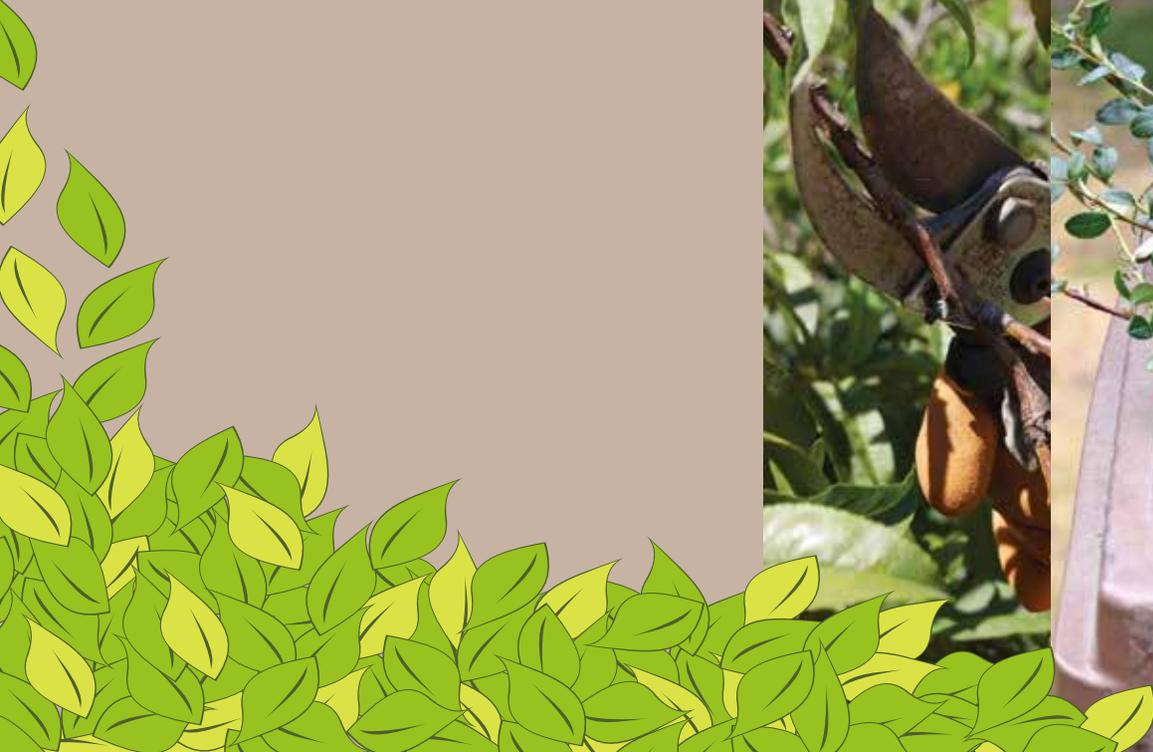


County of San Diego  
Yard Trimmings  
Recycling Guide





*“San Diego County sends 140,000 tons of yard trimmings to the landfill each year”*

*- County of San Diego*



# Introduction

The intention of this guide is to inform County of San Diego residents and businesses about proper disposal of yard trimmings, also known as green waste, grass clippings, landscape debris or plant waste. By following the guidelines provided here, yard trimmings can be easily recycled, composted or mulched. This not only keeps yard trimmings from ending up in our local landfills, but also helps retain beneficial nutrients and moisture in our soils.

This guide offers do-it-yourself solutions for reducing and recycling yard trimmings.

- Learn how to compost on-site.
- Learn where to dispose so that it is easier on your wallet and the environment.
- Learn about curbside pickup options.





# Keep Them Out of the Landfill

Recycling or composting yard trimmings is in accordance with the California initiative to reach 75% diversion through recycling, composting, and source reduction of solid waste by 2020. Disposing organic material in the landfill releases large amounts of methane, a potent green house gas, due to anaerobic decomposition. Recycling or composting yard trimmings reduces greenhouse gas emissions and conserves landfill space.

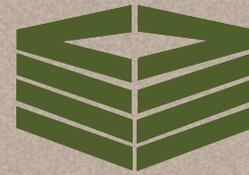
Yard trimmings, like other organic materials, contain nutrients that can be redistributed into your soil and your plants. Similar to aluminum and other recyclables, yard trimmings should be disposed of properly so that the valuable resources contained in them are not lost.



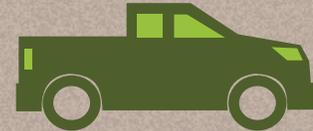
**Residence**



**Commercial**



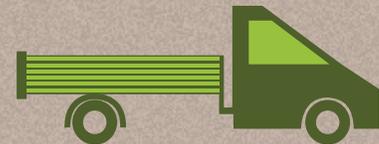
**Compost it Yourself On-site**



**Drop-Off**



**Curbside**

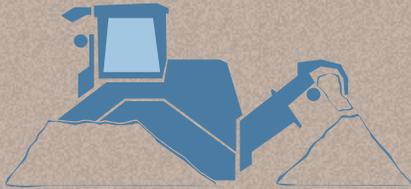


**Gardener**

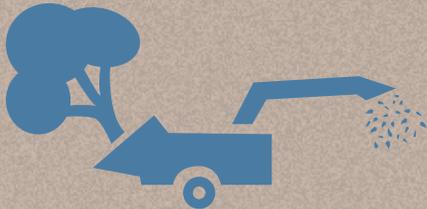




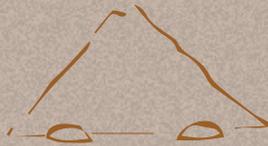
**Transfer/Processing Facility**



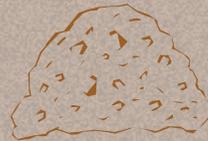
**Composting**



**Chipping & Grinding**



**Compost**



**Mulch**



**Gardening**



**Residential Landscaping**



**Commercial Landscaping**



# San Diego's Landfill Composition

Countywide, San Diego disposes of over one million tons of organic waste each year in the landfill. Approximately 20% of those materials are yard trimmings and wood waste. The unincorporated area of San Diego County disposes of nearly 140,000 tons annually. These materials can be put to higher and better uses such as composting and mulching.

In the landfill, alongside inorganic waste, organic material decomposes without oxygen, or anaerobically. Consequently, methane and other harmful greenhouse gases are released. By contrast, proper disposal, such as with composting and mulching, breaks down the material aerobically and recycles the nutrients for use in another growing cycle.





## Tips for Reducing Yard Trimmings



**Proper Pruning:** Save time, money, and labor by reducing the amount of yard trimmings produced from your yard. Research your plants to learn how much pruning is required. Your local nursery can help.



**Smart Plant Selection:** Consider your local climate and the space available in your yard when choosing plants.



**Avoid Overwatering:** Giving your plants too much water may promote excess growth. Check your soil regularly with your fingers or a moisture meter. Research how much water your plants actually need. Plants native to San Diego are very drought-tolerant -- they actually thrive with less water!



**Grasscycle Your Lawn:** Rather than collecting the clippings from lawn mowing, leave them on the surface of your lawn to increase nutrients and water retention. Cut your grass no more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of its length.



## Identify Your Yard Trimmings



Yard trimmings consist of grass clippings, leaves, garden material, clippings and branches.



Dirt, rocks, concrete, lumber, and construction waste are not considered yard trimmings but can be handled by other facilities. The County offers information for recycling these materials online in our County Construction and Recycling guide: [www.tinyurl.com/CDRecycling](http://www.tinyurl.com/CDRecycling)



**ADDITIONAL:** Some yard trimmings can be more difficult to handle such as palm fronds, succulents and ice plants, as well as animal manure. However some facilities accept these items. Contact the facilities listed in the attached Facilities and Pricing insert for options on the more difficult to handle yard trimming materials.



# 3 Ways to Manage Yard Trimmings



## 1. Compost It Yourself On-Site

Yard trimmings can be composted on-site at your home, at a business, or community garden. On-site composting diverts waste from the landfill, creates a beneficial soil amendment for your yard, and saves money due to eliminating the need for hauling and facility disposal costs. Compost benefits the structure, water retention capability, nutrient content and microbial conditions of your soil, creating the perfect environment for healthy, vigorous growing plants, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. The County, in partnership with Solana Center, offers a backyard composting education program with free workshops, master composter training courses, compost demonstration sites, a “rotline”, and on-line and print resources. Composting can be tailored to the space and time you have available. See [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org) for more information on how to get started! A complete Compost It Yourself Guide is available online: [www.solanacenter.org/sites/default/files/CIY%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.solanacenter.org/sites/default/files/CIY%20FINAL.pdf)



## 2. Drop-Off

Residents and businesses may also drop-off yard trimmings to facilities that will compost yard trimmings into a beneficial soil amendment or chip materials into mulch. These facilities are often much less expensive than taking the materials to a landfill. Finished compost and mulch may also be purchased at some of the same locations, saving a trip, if it is needed for your home or business landscapes. These locations can be found in the attached Facilities and Pricing insert.



### 3. Curbside Pickup (where available)

Waste and recycling haulers offer curbside pickup of yard trimmings. To participate, contact your service provider to start service and collect your yard trimmings separately from the rest of your waste. It will be picked up by your waste and recycling hauler and composted or mulched.

If you have curbside green pickup, please use your bins properly. Residents should place clearly marked collection containers out on their collection day. Residences and businesses may also make arrangements with their commercial gardeners or landscape companies to remove and properly dispose of yard trimmings. Waste haulers may also provide special dumpsters to be permanently located at business sites for yard trimmings. Please contact your service provider for curbside pickup options. A list of unincorporated County haulers and recyclers can be found at: [www.tinyurl.com/SDWasteHaulers](http://www.tinyurl.com/SDWasteHaulers) and [www.tinyurl.com/SDRecyclers](http://www.tinyurl.com/SDRecyclers)



## Benefits of Proper Disposal of Yard Trimmings

- Conserve valuable nutrients, which can become soil amendments for another growing cycle.
- Reduce greenhouse gases released into the environment.
- Preserve landfill space for items that truly can't be recycled, reused or re-purposed. Help San Diego County achieve state-mandated waste reduction goals.
- Save money. Green material disposal fees are on average 30% lower than landfill fees. See Facilities and Pricing insert for yard trimming recycling options.



# Using Compost and Mulch

Compost and mulch are excellent for improving your soil's nutrient content and water retention. Applied to your landscape, they will boost the health of your plants at a low cost with no adverse impact on the environment.

Compost improves the structure and organic content of your soil. It saves money by reducing the amount of watering and fertilizer needed to create healthy plants.



*Add 1-2" of finished compost to your garden and till it 6 – 8" into the soil.*

Mulching reduces waste, prevents weed growth, and reduces soil erosion. Mulch fosters a strong microbial community in the soil, which is essential for plant growth.



*Adding an inch of mulch two times a year to a garden can help retain moisture, build soil fertility and protect plants.*

In addition to your local nursery, many of the facilities that accept yard trimmings also sell these products. These locations can be found in the attached Facilities and Pricing insert.





# A Closer Look at Compost

## 1. How do I compost food scraps?

Like yard trimmings, food scraps contain valuable nutrients that should not be discarded in the landfill. For businesses, there are many opportunities to donate pre-consumer and packaged food to local food banks and other charities. Businesses may also choose to invest in an in-vessel composting system to compost on-site if space allows. For residents, backyard composting is a great option for composting food waste. Please visit: [www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting/](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting/) for information on the County's backyard composting program.

## 2. What are my options for composting or recycling manure?

Composting manure, instead of stockpiling or disposing it, has many benefits for you and the environment. You can compost on-site or take manure to a facility. See the Facilities and Pricing insert for more information.

Composting manure eliminates pests, pathogens, and odors while decreasing runoff and producing an inexpensive soil amendment. Be mindful of the process and location of your pile to ensure pathogens and contaminants don't leach into local waters. Solana Center offers workshops to teach manure composting. The County also offers a free video on how to compost manure on-site. The video is located online under our Animal Manure Management page: [www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting.html)



# For More Information Contact

**County of San Diego  
Department of Public Works  
Solid Waste Planning and Recycling**

5510 Overland Ave, Suite 210  
San Diego, CA 92123  
MS 0-350

[www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/)  
[www.tinyurl.com/FacebookSanDiegoCoRecycling](http://www.tinyurl.com/FacebookSanDiegoCoRecycling)  
[www.twitter.com/RecycleSDCo](http://www.twitter.com/RecycleSDCo)

**Solana Center for Environmental Innovation**

137 N. El Camino Real  
Encinitas, CA 92024

Rotline: (760) 436 – 7986 ext. 222

Walk-in Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30am – 4:30pm

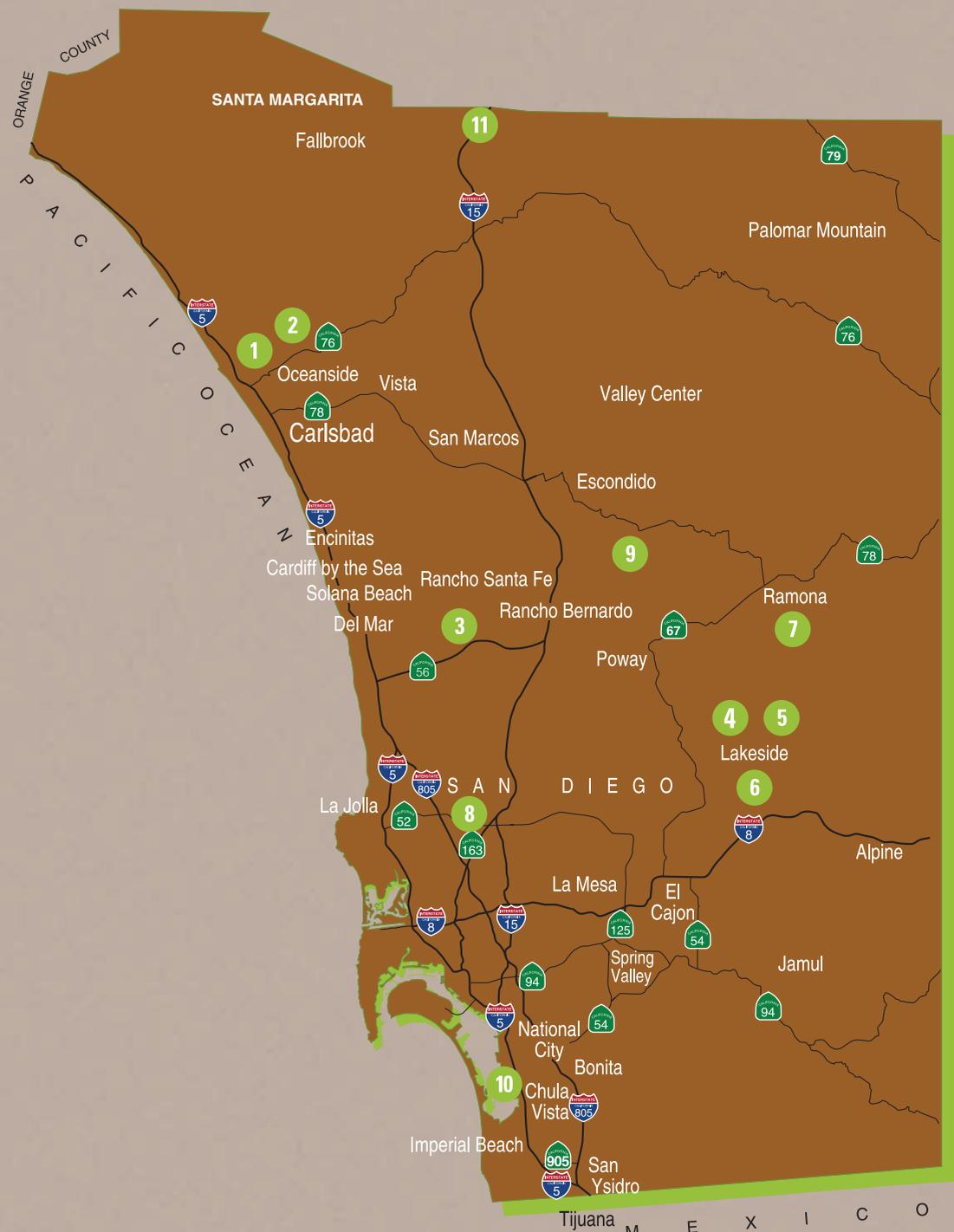
[www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org)

[www.facebook.com/SolanaCenter](http://www.facebook.com/SolanaCenter)

[www.twitter.com/scei](http://www.twitter.com/scei)

Under State Assembly Bill 1826 (2014), businesses and multifamily complexes (complexes with 5 or more units)\* will be required to separate organic materials (i.e. yard trimmings, food scraps, [REDACTED] from trash and arrange for organic waste recycling services. This requirement will be phased-in, initially targeting those generating 8 cubic yards or more per week of organic waste in April 2016 and eventually decrease to those generating 4 cubic yards of solid waste in 2019. (\*Under this requirement, multifamily complexes will be required to separate yard trimmings but will not be required to separate food scraps from trash.)





	Organic Material Recyclers	Address	Hours	Organic Material Recycling Fees	Products Available
1	<b>El Corazon Compost Facility</b> (760) 439-9920 www.agriserviceinc.com	3210 Oceanside Blvd. Oceanside, 92056	Mon - Sat 7am - 4:30pm	Branches/ tree trimmings \$40, Yard trimmings \$40 Clean wood \$40, Chipped brush/ wood \$20 (\$10 Minimum on all loads)	Mulch \$6- \$25 yd <sup>3</sup> , Compost \$10/ yd <sup>3</sup> , 70/30 Blended Topsoil \$20/yd <sup>3</sup> Bioswale Soil \$32/yd <sup>3</sup>
2	<b>Evergreen Nursery</b> (760) 754-0340 Or (858) 481-0622 www.evergreennursery.com	3231 Oceanside Blvd. Oceanside, 92056 Or 13650 Carmel Valley Rd. San Diego, 92130	Mon - Thur 7:30am - 5pm Fri - Sat 7:30am - 6pm Sun 9am - 5pm	\$20-80 For 33-130 ft <sup>3</sup> , \$80 for 121-384 ft <sup>3</sup> \$200 And up for over 385 ft <sup>3</sup> ; Double for palms, succulents, & bamboo (Call for exact prices)	Topsoil \$19.50/yd <sup>3</sup> Compost \$16.50/yd <sup>3</sup> Fine Ground-cover Mulch \$22.50/yd <sup>3</sup>
3	<b>Enniss Inc. Materials Division</b> (619) 443-9024 www.ennissinc.com	12421 Vigilante Road Lakeside, 92040	Mon - Fri 7am - 4pm Sat 8am - 4pm	Horse manure, clean dirt, and rock (Call for prices)	70/30 Topsoil \$20/ton Screened Topsoil \$14/ton Mulch Mix \$20/yd <sup>3</sup>
4	<b>Inland Pacific Resource Recovery</b> (619) 390-1418 www.inlandpacificinc.com	12650 Slaughterhouse Canyon Road Lakeside, 92040	Mon - Sat 7am - 4pm	Untreated wood & green material, No Palms \$30/Pickup truck; \$46/16' bed, \$30/other vehicles + \$1/ft., Prices subject to change	Amended topsoil \$17/yd <sup>3</sup> Compost \$15/yd <sup>3</sup> Mulch \$15/yd <sup>3</sup> ; Wood chips \$15/yd <sup>3</sup> Prices subject to change
5	<b>Hanson A1 Soils</b> (858) 715- 5600 www.a1soils.com	12560 Highway 67 Lakeside, 92040	Mon - Fri 6am - 4pm	Stable Bedding: \$5-\$25, depending on vehicle (Call to confirm)	Compost 3/8" \$23/yd <sup>3</sup> Humus 1/8" \$31/yd <sup>3</sup> Plain wood shavings \$30/yd <sup>3</sup> Nitrolized fir shavings \$34/yd <sup>3</sup> Coir \$63/yd <sup>3</sup>
6	<b>Treesource Recycling</b> (619) 890-9382	1311 Walnut St. Ramona, 92065	Mon - Sat 7am - 5pm	Green and wood material \$20/ton Palms, ice-plants, tropical \$25/ton	Standard Mulch Private Hauling fee (Call for pricing)
7	<b>Miramar Greenery</b> (858) 492-6100 www.recycleorlese.com	5180 Convoy Street (Highway 52) San Diego, 92111	Mon - Fri 7am - 4pm Sat - Sun 7:30am - 4pm	Yard trimmings & untreated wood, City Residents: No Fee, Business/ Non-city: pickup/trailer \$15; Over 2 tons \$25/ton	2 Yd <sup>3</sup> compost/mulch, City Residents: No Fee, Compost \$12/yd <sup>3</sup> & Mulch \$5/yd <sup>3</sup> for non-residents, Wood-chips \$18/yd <sup>3</sup> ; colored \$28/yd <sup>3</sup>
8	<b>San Pasqual Valley Soils</b> (760) 644-3404 www.spssoils.com	16111 Old Milky Way San Diego, 92027	Mon - Wed 7am - 5pm	Yard-waste, chipped brush, untreated wood saw-ducts: \$40/ ton no palms, cacti, succulents, sod	Compost, soil amendments, mulches, topsoils, custom blends (Call for Prices)
9	<b>Otay Landfill</b> (619) 421-3773	1700 Maxwell Rd. Chula Vista, CA 91911	Mon - Fri 7am - 4pm	Standard Pickup Truck: \$50.78, Larger Trucks \$38.90/ton, \$80 deposit	Not Available
10	<b>ASAP Horse Manure Organic Compost</b> (951) 538-4669	Pick-up service. (Call to arrange)	Mon - Fri 8am - 4pm	Manure: \$200 per 11- 12 yards	Not Available

**Detach insert from guide  
and save for handy reference!**



**This guide can be downloaded from our website:**

[www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting.html)



# **San Diego County Compost and Mulch Facility and Pricing Insert**