



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
sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/
facebook.com/CountyofSanDiegoRecycling
twitter.com/RecycleSDCo

Solana Center for Environmental Innovation
137 N. El Camino Real
Encinitas, CA 92024
Rotline: (760) 436-7986 ext. 700
Walk-in hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Or by Appointment
solanacenter.org
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twitter.com/solanacenter
instagram.com/solanacenter

Businesses and multifamily complexes are now required to separate organic materials from trash and arrange for organic waste recycling services per calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics.



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*



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: sandiegocounty.gov/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. 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 Composting page: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/dpw/DPW_VIDEO_ARCHIVE/horsemanure.mp4



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 *Facility and Pricing Insert*.



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.

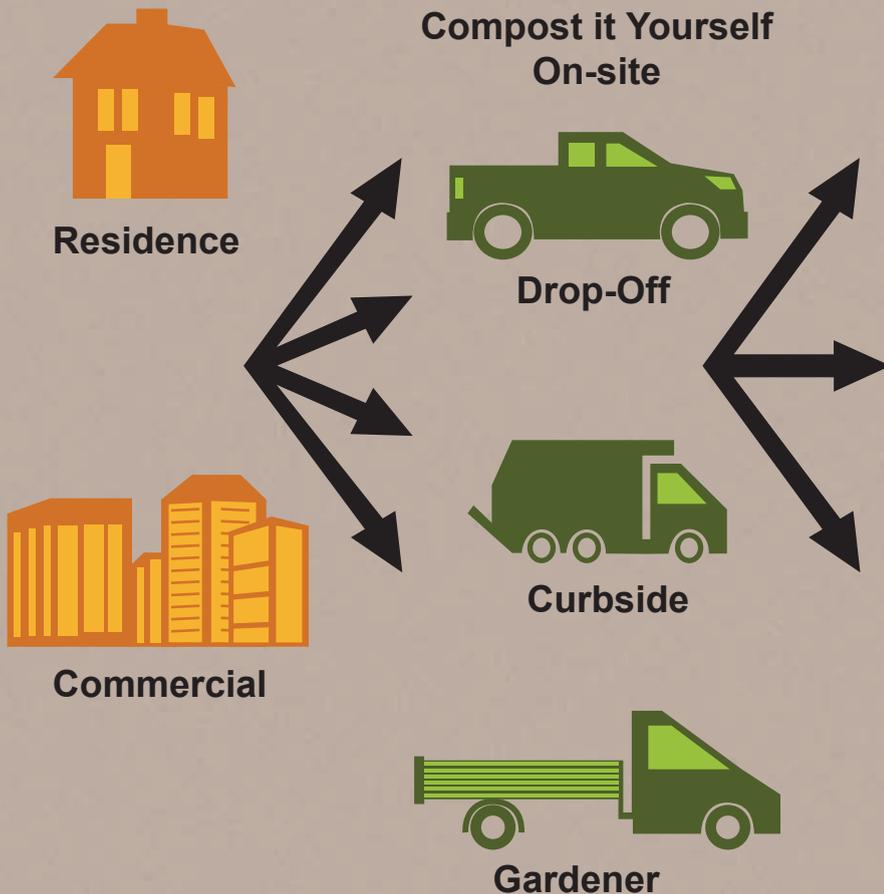
- Learn how to compost on-site.
- Learn where to dispose so that it is easier on your wallet and the environment.
- Learn about curbside pickup options.



Keep Them Out of the Landfill

California's goal is 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.



3. Curbside Pickup (where available)

Some waste and recycling haulers offer curbside pickup of yard trimmings. To have your yard trimmings collected separately, contact your service provider.

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: tinyurl.com/SDWasteHaulers and 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 *Facility and Pricing Insert* for yard trimming recycling options.



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 soil through improved water retention capability, nutrient content, microbial quality, and soil structure. This creates the perfect environment for healthy 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 online and print resources. Composting can be tailored to the space and time you have available. See www.solanacenter.org for more information on how to get started! A complete *Compost It Yourself Guide* is available online: solanacenter.org/resources/compost-it-yourself

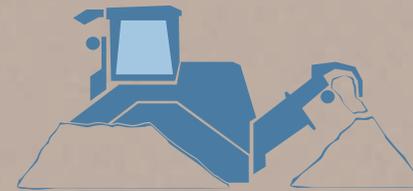


2. Drop-Off

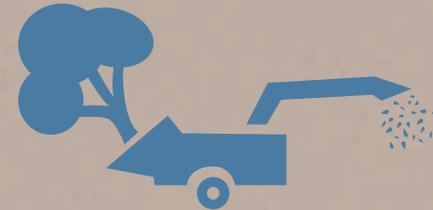
Residents and businesses may also drop-off yard trimmings to facilities that will compost yard trimmings into a beneficial soil amendment or chip materials into mulch. These facilities are often much less expensive than taking the materials to a landfill. Finished compost and mulch may also be purchased 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 *Facility and Pricing Insert*.



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.



(Source: City of San Diego Waste Characterization Study 2012-13)



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 either with a moisture probe, or by hand, digging 6-8" deep. 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 1/3 of its length.



Identify Your Yard Trimmings



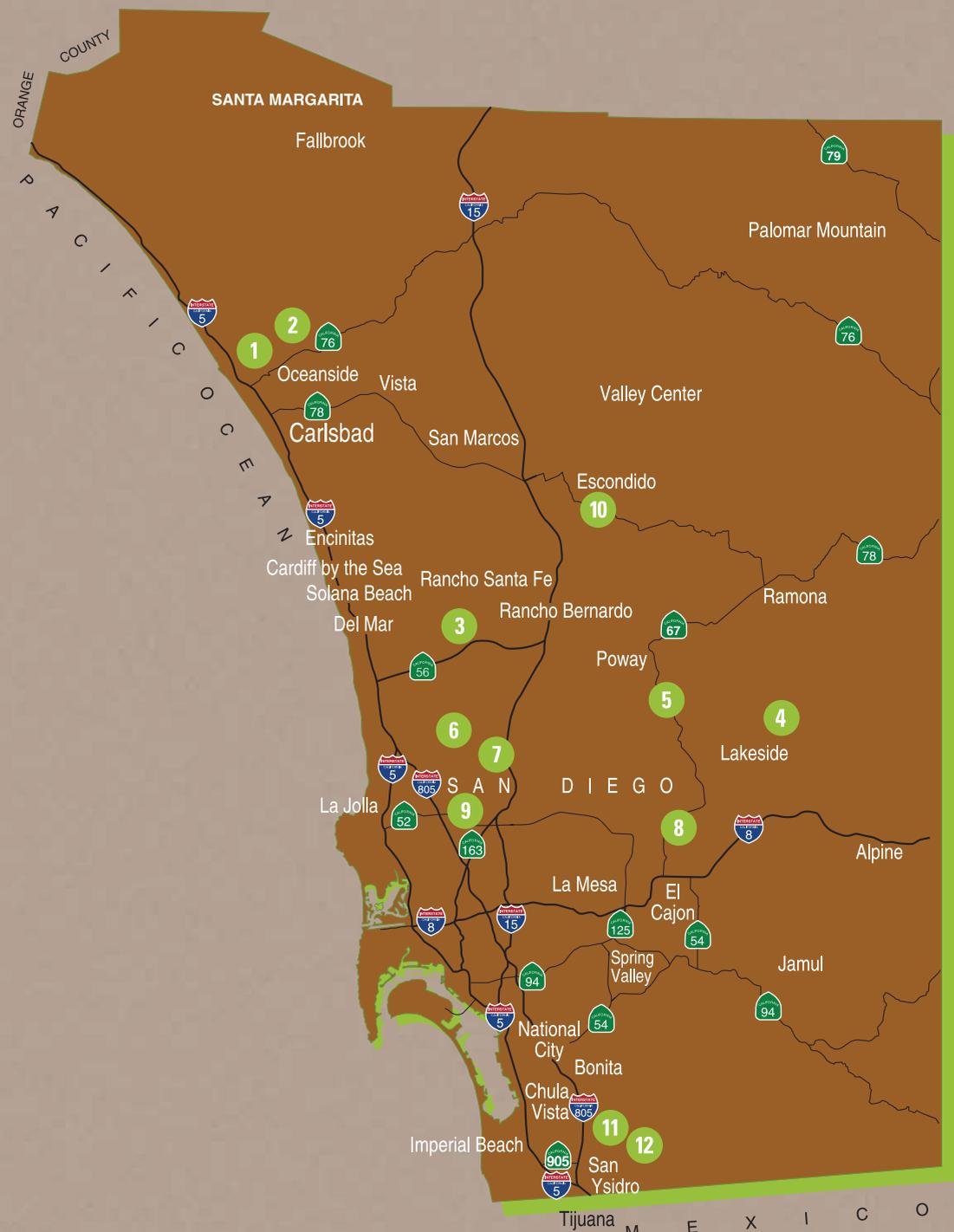
Yard trimmings consist of grass clippings, leaves, garden material, clippings, and branches.



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: tinyurl.com/CDRecycling



ADDITIONAL: Some yard trimmings can be more difficult to handle such as palm fronds, succulents, and ice plants. Some facilities will not accept these materials; animal manures are also often not accepted. Contact the facilities listed in the attached *Facilities and Pricing Insert* for particulars.



	Organic Material Recyclers	Address	Hours	Organic Material Recycling Fees	Products Available
1	El Corazon Compost Facility (760) 439-9920 www.agriserviceinc.com	3210 Oceanside Blvd. Oceanside, 92056	Mon - Fri 7:30 AM - 5 PM Sat 8 AM - 4 PM	Yard trimmings & clean wood \$40/ton Chipped brush & wood \$20/ton (\$10 min. charge, loading stops 30 min. before closing)	Amendments, soils, & mulches (see website for products & prices)
2	Evergreen Nursery (760) 754-0340	3231 Oceanside Blvd. Oceanside, 92056	Mon - Sat 7:30 AM - 4 PM	\$20-80 for 33-130 ft ³ , \$80 for 121-384 ft ³ \$200 and up for over 385 ft ³ double for palms, succulents, & bamboo (call for exact prices)	Topsoil \$19.50/yd ³ Compost \$16.50/yd ³ Fine ground-cover mulch \$22.50/yd ³
3	(858) 481-0622 www.evergreennursery.com	13650 Carmel Valley Rd. San Diego, 92130	Mon - Fri 7:30 AM - 4 PM		
4	Inland Pacific Resource Recovery (619) 390-1418 www.inlandpacificinc.com	Recycling Yard 12650 Slaughterhouse Canyon Road Lakeside, 92040	Mon - Sat 7 AM - 4 PM	Fees range from \$20 - \$375 Trees, brush, ice plant, yucca, bamboo (cut into 4' length), succulents, stumps (up to 4') Inquire for prices	Price range \$10/yd ³ - \$70/yd ³ Compost, amended top soil, potting soil, planters mix, wood chips, mulch, fill dirt, & more (see website) Products subject to availability
5		Landscaping Yard 12275 Hwy 67 Lakeside, CA 92040			
6	Hanson A1 Soils (858) 715-5600 www.a1soils.com	Carrol Canyon Soils 9255 Camino Santa Fe San Diego, CA 92121	Mon - Fri 7 AM - 3 PM Sat 7 AM - 1 PM	Stable horse bedding: \$5-\$25, depending on vehicle (call to confirm)	Blended soils, soil amendments, mulch, rock, cobble, sand, decomposed granite (see website)
7		Miramar Soils 9299 Harris Plant Rd San Diego, CA 92145	Mon - Fri 6:30 AM - 3 PM Sat 6:30 AM - 3 PM		
8		Slaughterhouse Soils 12560 Highway 67 Lakeside, 92040	Mon - Fri 7 AM - 3 PM		
9	Miramar Greenery (858) 492-6100 www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/miramar/greenery	5180 Convoy Street (Highway 52) San Diego, 92111	Mon - Fri 7 AM - 4 PM Sat - Sun 7:30 AM - 4 PM	City of San Diego residents, self-haul greens: free Business & non-City residents: \$14 pick up or \$30/ton Accepts leaves & flowers, tree trimmings & prunings, logs & branches, shrubbery & brush, & Christmas trees	2 yd ³ compost/4" mulch, City residents, self-loading: free 1/2" compost, 2" & 4" mulch, wood chips & wood fines (see website)
10	San Pasqual Valley Soils (760) 644-3404 www.spssoils.com	16111 Old Milky Way San Diego, 92027	Mon - Fri 7 AM - 4:30 PM Sat 7 AM - 12 PM	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)
11	Otay Landfill (619) 421-3773	1700 Maxwell Rd. Chula Vista, CA 91911	Mon - Fri 7 AM - 4 PM	Standard pickup truck: \$57 or \$43/ton plus fees	None
12	Otay Mesa Compost Facility (760) 214-1842 www.agriserviceinc.com/otay	434 Alta Rd. San Diego, CA 92154	Mon - Fri 6:30 AM - 4 PM	Yard trimmings & clean wood \$40/ton Chipped brush & wood \$20/ton (\$10 min. charge, loading stops 30 min. before closing)	Amendments, soils, & mulches (see website)

**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



San Diego County Compost and Mulch Facility and Pricing Insert