



# IF IT GROWS, IT GOES!

## Organic Waste Recycling Guide



**YES, PLEASE - INCLUDE THESE!**

- Meat, fish, bones & shells
- Dairy, eggs, & paper egg cartons
- Fruits & vegetables
- Grains, pasta, bread
- Paper take-out containers
- Food-soiled paper including bags, towels, napkins, tissues, and cardboard
- Yard trimmings & untreated wood

**NO, THANKS - NOT ACCEPTED WASTE!**

- Diapers
- Dirt or rocks
- Compostable or plastic bags
- Pet waste
- Including kitty litter
- Treated & painted wood

**REMEMBER TO PUT THESE IN THE BLUE RECYCLE BIN!**

- Plastics
- Glass
- Metals
- Clean Paper & Cardboard

# Why It's Important to Recycle Right in Your Blue Bin

Did you know up to 20% of what some residents and businesses put in their recycling bins is not recyclable in the blue bin?

By eliminating materials that don't belong (called contamination or wishcycling), you'll help ensure recyclables remain valuable, are actually recycled and don't create a hazard for workers or machinery at the recycling facility.

Stopping contamination begins with "Recycling Right" - knowing *how* to recycle as well as *what* to recycle.

*Recycling Right means your items are:*  
**EMPTY.** No or very little food residue remaining.  
**DRY.** No liquids remaining.  
**LOOSE.** Do not bag your recyclables; place them loose in the recycling bin.



For more information on Recycling Right, scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/RecyclingRight](http://tinyurl.com/RecyclingRight)

**Loose**  
not bagged  
recyclables

**Bagged**  
recyclables

# County of San Diego Recycling Guide for Commercial Properties in Densely Populated Areas





## Materials Required for Recycling

Commercial properties in the densely-populated areas must separate designated materials on their premises and arrange for recycling of the following materials:



### Designated Recyclable Materials

Aluminum  
Glass Bottles & Jars  
Cardboard & Paper Products, including Cartons  
Plastic Bottles & Containers (#1-#7)  
Tin & Bi-Metal Cans



### Designated Organic Materials

Yard Trimmings  
Nonhazardous Wood Waste  
Food Scraps & Food Soiled Paper

## Other Requirements for Commercial Properties

**To ensure that customers and staff have sufficient access to recycling and are educated on how to properly recycle, the County has established the following requirements for commercial properties:**

- **Meet the County's minimum diversion service level ratio of 35%.** *This means at least 35% of the weekly container capacity must be available for recyclables and organic materials.*
  - The container capacity is measured by the space (cubic yards or gallons) in the dumpsters and/or carts used for waste, recyclable and organic materials.
  - Your waste hauler or County Recycling staff can assist you in right sizing your waste service.
- Provide containers for employees & customers that are properly labeled and match the color(s) of their collection containers. All trash containers for customers must be co-located with recycling containers (except in restrooms).
  - Full-service restaurants are not required to have bins for customers but must have bins for staff.
- Comply with surplus edible food donation requirements if identified as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 commercial edible food generator.
- Provide education for new hires.
- Train and educate employees annually on proper material sorting.
- Prohibit employees from placing materials in wrong containers.
- Inspect containers for contamination and re-educate employees.
- Accommodate inspections/monitoring by the County or its designee.
- Require in contract that gardeners and/or landscapers recycle green materials and wood waste if total waste generation is greater than or equal to 2 cubic yards per week.

## Compliance & Assistance

### How do I Comply?

Generators may demonstrate compliance by:

- Subscribing to a 3-stream collection service with a non-exclusive franchise hauler, or contract with a Certified Recyclable Materials Collector for certain materials.
- Self-hauling materials. Registration with the County is required. Contact [Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov) for information.
- Maintaining records:
  - Employee training
  - Landscaping contracts (if applicable)
  - Edible food donation contracts & records (if applicable)

**Noncompliance is subject to an Administrative Citation with escalating penalties.**



### Free Recycling Assistance

Free technical assistance and promotional equipment is available to commercial properties including right sizing of service levels, trash and recycling enclosure signs, brochures, door hangers, lease language, landscaping contract templates, and recycling containers (as inventory allows).

**Contact a Recycling Specialist at 858-694-2456 or [Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov) for more information.**

*For additional information on the updated Solid Waste Ordinance and how it may affect commercial property owners or managers, learn more at [tinyurl.com/CommRecycle](http://tinyurl.com/CommRecycle) or by scanning the QR code*



**SCAN ME**

Have a recycling question?  
Visit [WasteFreeSD.org](http://WasteFreeSD.org) or call:

