



GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO **SPRING 2026**

GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS: CLEAN UP DAY

Businesses receive one free Clean Up Day for the collection of up to four bulky items (e.g., furniture, mattresses, appliances) each calendar year with a weight limit of 200 lbs. per item. Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service at least one week in advance to schedule: pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com or call 650.493.4894



SORTING GUIDANCE: PLASTICS

Recycling plastic is crucial to conserving natural resources, protecting the local environment, and achieving the City of Palo Alto's zero waste goals. Here are some tips on how to identify and dispose of plastic waste.

Understand the Label

The "chasing arrows" symbol on plastic products identifies the type of plastic or resin code the item is made from. It does not determine nor guarantee an item is recyclable. It is best practice not to rely on the "chasing arrows" symbol.



Rigid vs. Film Plastics

Palo Alto accepts rigid and bundled film plastics in the blue recycle container.

Rigid plastics hold their shape such as bottles, containers, product packaging, and trays. We accept rigid plastics regardless of the number shown in the "chasing arrows" symbol or color of the plastic. The only exclusions to rigid plastics going into the blue recycle cart are items smaller than a coffee cup lid such as straws and utensils and expanded foam plastic, which should be placed into the black or tan landfill container.



Film plastics are thin and bendable such as plastic bags, bubble wrap, shrink wrap, and liners. Film plastics must be clean and dry, bundled together inside a clear plastic bag at least the size of a soccer ball and knotted at the top to be placed into the blue recycle container.



Be Recycle Ready

To be recycle ready, bottles and containers need to be empty of food and liquid; paper and film plastics need to be clean and dry. Then your recyclables are ready to be placed into the blue recycle container. If the items have food, liquid, or grease, they cannot be recycled successfully.



ZERO WASTE GUIDANCE: PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG BAN

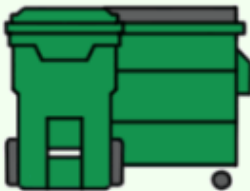
New bag requirements for grocery and retail stores went into effect on January 1, 2026. Senate Bill 1053 restricts the types of bags that may be distributed at the point of sale for grocery stores, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience stores, food marts, and liquor stores. Plastic bags are no longer permitted at checkout of these establishments to reduce the immense plastic waste damaging California's environment. Paper carryout bags made of recycled content may be provided for a minimum charge of ten cents (\$0.10) per bag at

checkout counters, self-checkout kiosks, in-store pick up, curbside delivery, or home delivery.

Stores may only provide customers with pre-checkout bags that are made of recycled paper or compostable plastic that are BPI certified or have the word "Compostable" printed on them. Pre-checkout bags are provided to a customer before the customer reaches the point of sale. An example is a bag in the produce section that would hold loose produce or multiple items.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What do I do if I have extra material?

Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service in advance to request an extra pick-up of the compost, recycle, or landfill containers onsite. We will discuss pricing information and availability to determine how best to proceed with scheduling an extra pick-up service.



How do I change my refuse service?

Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto to work with one of the Environmental Outreach Coordinators onsite to discuss adjusting refuse services to your business's needs. We will discuss waste sorting practices onsite, areas of improvement, pricing information, and other factors to best determine refuse service levels at your business.



What are the Zero Waste requirements for my business?

The City of Palo Alto has adopted several Zero Waste requirements to protect the local environment, meet state recycling and compost mandates, and reach our community's zero waste and climate protection goals. Utilize the [Multi-Ordinance Checklist](#) as a guide to ensure that your business meets all the requirements and complies with current Zero Waste ordinances. For any technical assistance or resources to help your business reach compliance,

contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto.

Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto

PALO ALTO EARTH DAY FESTIVAL



Save the date and join us for a day of fun celebrating sustainability and learning what you can do to help save the planet, discover resources, and support the City's zero waste goals.

Sunday April 19, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Rd, Palo Alto

Help us Spread the Word!

Know someone who should be receiving our newsletter for up-to-date waste reduction tips and collection updates?

- Forward this email to your **facilities manager, sustainability lead, or office coordinator.**
- New to our newsletter? Sign up to stay informed on local waste reduction tips, compliance updates, and free resources from GreenWaste of Palo Alto.

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