

GreenWays

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

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 plastics and bundled film plastics in the blue recycle cart.

- 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 landfill cart.
- 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 cart.



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 cart. If the items have food, liquid, or grease, they cannot be recycled successfully.



GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS



COMPOST GIVEAWAY STATION:

Eleanor Pardee Community Garden
Tuesday through Sunday, 9am-4pm
851 Center Dr, Palo Alto

- Bring your own shovel and containers to put compost in
- Only one car is allowed at the compost pile at a time
- Pickup limited to 96 gallons per week

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **PALO ALTO EARTH DAY FESTIVAL:**
Sunday, April 19, 1pm-4pm
Palo Alto Art Center
1313 Newell Rd, Palo Alto
- **COMPOST BASICS WORKSHOP:**
Saturday, April 25, 10am-12pm
Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
- **REPAIR CAFE:**
Sunday, April 26, 11am-3pm
Museum of American Heritage
351 Homer Ave, Palo Alto
- **WORM COMPOST WORKSHOP:**
Saturday, June 13, 10am-12pm
Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden
1431 Waverley St, Palo Alto

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

When is my Clean Up Day?

To find out the date of your next Clean Up Day, utilize one of the following methods:

- Visit www.greenwaste.com/paloalto/cleanupday and fill out the search function*
- Email pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com or call 650.493.4894*

*You will need your address and Palo Alto Utilities account number

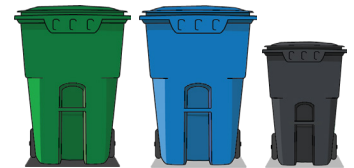


Where can I dispose of batteries?

- Some household batteries, such as AA, AAA, AAAA, C, and D, can be collected on your pre-scheduled Clean Up Days. Place them out with your other Clean Up Day items in a sealed, clear, and tear resistant bag. Find out which batteries are accepted on your Clean Up Day at: www.greenwaste.com/paloalto/cleanupday
- Single-use and rechargeable batteries, small electronics with embedded batteries (cell phones, tablets, etc.), and auto batteries can all be taken to Palo Alto's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Station. For more information about the HHW Station, visit www.paloalto.gov/HHW

How can I reduce the cost of my refuse service?

The cost of your refuse service is based on the size of your black landfill cart. By correctly placing items such as pizza boxes, soiled paper products, and food scraps into your green compost cart, and items such as rigid plastics, aluminum foil, and glass into your blue recycle cart, you are saving money. By properly sorting, you are cutting down on the need for a larger landfill cart. Find out What Goes Where to improve your waste sorting at, www.paloalto.gov/wgtools



CITY OF PALO ALTO: EARTH DAY FESTIVAL 2026

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, 2026, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd,
Palo Alto CA, 94303

Community organizations tabling, family-friendly activities, and more!

Information: www.paloalto.gov/EarthDayFestival

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.