

MANDATORY COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING



Food Waste Recycling Requirements for Businesses and Commercial Properties

California law requires all businesses and commercial properties to separate organic waste from their garbage and recycling. The new requirements take effect on January 1, 2022.

What Qualifies as Organic Waste?

Organic material includes food scraps, food-soiled paper, green waste/yard trimmings, and clean wood. Businesses typically generate organic waste through employee lunches, food preparation areas, and paper towels at designated hand washing stations or breakrooms.

Why Organics?

Organics recycling can help protect public health and the environment.

- Methane gas is released when food and other organic materials decompose in landfills. Methane and other gases contribute to public health issues, including heart disease, asthma, and climate change.
- Recycling organic material can significantly reduce greenhouse gases and convert organics into useful compost.

Does This Apply to my Business?

This law applies to all business types, not just those that sell food. This includes office buildings, retail stores, hospitals, restaurants, non-profits, hotels, repair shops, event venues, government offices, schools, etc.



How Do I Comply?

The city will provide Green Bins to all businesses beginning in January 2022. Businesses must provide organics bins inside buildings, wherever food waste is generated. Use compostable or clear plastic bags and place them in Green Bin. Call Folsom Waste & Recycling at 916-461-6741 or Atlas Disposal at 916-455-2800 to set up Green Bins.

City of Folsom Recycling and Waste Containers



RECYCLE OR
CARDBOARD



GARBAGE



NEW GREEN BIN
(Food and Yard Waste)



What if I Do Not Generate Enough Organic Material?

Food waste audits with documentation will be required to be considered for an exemption. Visit www.folsom.ca.us/OrganicsExemption and read the qualifications for an exemption waiver. Businesses that sell or produce food cannot receive a waiver.



Organic Waste Collection Tips

- Adjacent to each garbage container, provide one organics bin and one blue recycle bin in all common areas, breakrooms, and anywhere organic waste is generated throughout your workplace.
- At hand-washing stations, place a “paper towels only” sign on waste bin.
- Line the organics containers with compostable bags or clear plastic bags, including the paper towel bins.
- Educate and train employees and janitorial services about proper disposal of each bin.

What Can Go into the Green Bin?

Food waste, including:

- All cooked and raw food scraps
- Uneaten vegetables, fruits, dairy, meats, baked goods
- Bones



Food-soiled papers, including:

- Used paper towels
- Coffee filters
- Tea bags
- Paper plates
- Wooden utensils



Green waste is also allowed in the city organics bin: Grass clippings, Small branches, Leaves, Cut flowers, Garden trimmings.

Food generator businesses are required to rescue edible food. Learn more at www.folsom.ca.us/FoodRescue.