



RECYCLING REGULATIONS IN THE DENSELY-POPULATED AREAS OF UNINCORPORATED COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



NEW: UPDATED SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE

The County of San Diego Board of

Supervisors unanimously approved updates to the Solid Waste Ordinance on May 5, 2021. This requires all residents and businesses in the densely-populated areas of the unincorporated County to comply with new recycling requirements. Densely-populated areas include census tracts that have a population density of more than 75 people per square mile.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BE RECYCLED?

Designated organic recyclable materials include:

- Yard Trimmings
- Nonhazardous wood waste
- Food Scraps and food-soiled paper*

Designated recyclable materials include:

- Aluminum
- Tin and bi-metal cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Rigid plastics
- Mixed paper
- Cardboard
- White goods (appliances)

Industrial recyclable materials include:

Asphalt, concrete, dirt, land clearing vegetation, sand, gravel, and rock.

RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

For the purposes of recycling, single-family homes include multi-family complexes with 4 or fewer units. Residents in single-family homes must keep designated recyclables and organic materials separate from trash, and may either subscribe to 3-stream service with a

*Haulers are required to provide service to their customers by October 1, 2021.

**This is not a complete list of requirements for multi-family and commercial properties. Please scan the QR code, visit www.R1Earth.org for more information, or contact the County at Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov for free assistance.

County franchise hauler or certified collector, or register as a self-hauler.

RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES**

Multi-family complexes with 5 or more units must keep designated recyclables and organic materials separate from trash. Multi-family complexes must also:

- Meet the County's minimum diversion service level ratio of 35%. This means at least 35% (by volume) of the weekly container capacity must be available for recyclables and organic materials.
- Have adequate number and size of containers for tenants, employees, and contractors including a minimum of 20 gallons of recycling capacity per unit and 5 gallons of organics capacity per unit. *(This capacity will supersede the 35% recycling ratio, if applicable.)*

Property managers are also required to educate tenants and require in contract that gardeners and/or landscapers recycle yard trimmings and wood waste, if total waste generation is greater than or equal to 2 cubic yards per week.

RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESSES**

All businesses and commercial properties must keep designated recyclables and organic materials separate from trash. Businesses must also:

- Meet the County's minimum diversion service level ratio of 35%. This means at least 35% (by volume) of the weekly container capacity to be available for recyclables and organic materials.
- Provide containers for employees and 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).

Businesses are also required to educate employees, require in contract that gardeners and/or landscapers recycle yard trimmings and wood waste if total waste

generation is greater than or equal to 2 cubic yards per week, and comply with surplus edible food recovery requirements if identified as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 commercial edible food generator.

To comply with the ordinance, properties may arrange for recycling service with a franchise hauler or certified collector, self-haul, donate, or sell recyclable materials. If you choose to self-haul, donate, or sell materials, you must register with the County. Please contact County staff at (858) 694-2468 or Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov for details. **Noncompliance is subject to an Administrative Citation with escalating penalties.**

HAZARDOUS, ELECTRONIC, AND UNIVERSAL WASTE HANDLING

It is against the law to place products labeled Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Flammable, Corrosive or similar substances dangerous to collection and disposal personnel and the environment in waste or recycling receptacles. Electronic wastes such as televisions, computers, cell phones, and universal wastes including common batteries and fluorescent lights are not allowed to be disposed of in the trash or in recycling containers.

There are affordable, safe, legal, and convenient disposal options for hazardous, electronic, and universal wastes for households and qualifying small businesses throughout San Diego County.

- **Small Business** – If you generate less than 27 gallons, or 220 pounds of hazardous waste each month or 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste each month, call 1-858-694-2801.
- **Large Business** - Call the County of San Diego Hazardous Materials Division at 1-800-253-9933.

For questions on where to recycle or properly dispose of just about anything, please call:



The County of San Diego Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Hotline