

ZERO WASTE

Santa Cruz County
GreenWaste Recovery

News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Multi-Family Customers

Fall 2025

WINTER COMPOSTING TIPS

Putting plant and food scraps into your green cart helps divert waste from the landfill, and reduces climate impacts. Organic matter collected in your green cart is composted into nutrient-rich soil amendment that benefits our environment year-round! Yard waste like leaves and small branches are great additions to your green cart, and layering them with food scraps helps control odors. Seasonal items to put into the green cart include undecorated pumpkins and their seeds, Thanksgiving table scraps, and holiday greens (without flocking/fake snow or decorations).



Free Kitchen Pails Available

**For Residents in Unincorporated Santa Cruz County
Provided by GreenWaste of Santa Cruz**

Using a countertop pail or sealed container to store food scraps until you can take them outside makes it easy to collect food scraps, while keeping your kitchen tidy. GreenWaste offers free kitchen pails to help you collect food scraps before placing them in your green cart.

Use your pail for:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Eggshells
- Bones and cooked meat
- Plate scrapings
- And more!

Please call customer service **831-426-2711** or visit [greenwaste.com/santa-cruz-county](https://www.greenwaste.com/santa-cruz-county) to request your pail (one per household).

HOW TO RECYCLE HOLIDAY PACKAGING

The holidays bring joy-- and lots of packaging! Here's a quick guide to help you sort it right:



Wrapping Paper

Recyclable only if it's plain, non-metallic, and non-glittery. When in doubt, leave it out of recycling and put in the trash, or save for reuse. Opt for reusable and recyclable wrapping.



Bubble Wrap & Plastic Film

Clear bubble wrap and stretchy film plastic can be recycled when bagged together inside a clear plastic bag, knotted shut.



Cardboard Boxes

Flatten and place cardboard boxes in your recycling bin. Remove all packing materials, and be sure that they fit completely inside the blue bin with the lid closed.



Styrofoam (Polystyrene) Blocks and Peanuts

Not accepted in curbside recycling carts. Put them into the trash, or ask your local shipping store if they take them for reuse/recycling.



HOLIDAY SWAPS FOR A WASTE-FREE SEASON

Make this your greenest holiday yet! Swap wasteful for waste-free for joyful celebrations, with a lighter footprint.

SWAP WASTEFUL



Wrapping paper



Store-bought gifts



Packaged snacks



Plastic utensils



Disposable plates, cups, napkins



Plastic ornaments



FOR WASTE-FREE

Fabric wraps, scarves, bags, towels, newspaper



Experiences, concert tickets, dinners, classes



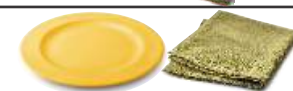
Homemade treats, baked goods, savory snacks



Real utensils (borrow or rent extras)



Real service ware, cloth napkins



Pine cones, citrus slices, shells, found items



Every small swap makes a big difference. Share your zero-waste ideas and inspire the community! Email: Zerowaste@santacruzcountyca.gov with your creative waste-free ideas.

HOW WE GREEN

Sorting matters. Whether you're at home, work, school or play, using a 3-bin sorting station correctly ensures that the maximum resources are recovered and diverted from the landfill. In our community, plant and food materials collected in your green bin are used to create compost that helps local farmers grow our food.



HOLIDAY TREE PICKUP

Please call GreenWaste Customer Service at **831-426-2711** to schedule a curbside tree pickup. Please remove tinsel, decoration and stand. No artificial or flocked (fake snow) trees. Flocked trees are Trash.

HOLIDAY PICKUP SCHEDULE

GreenWaste does not collect on Thanksgiving Day (Nov 27th), Christmas Day (Dec 25th), and New Year's Day (Jan 1st). If your regular collection day falls on or after these holidays, your collection will be delayed by one day. Please place your carts out for service by 6 AM. For more information, please contact GreenWaste customer service at **831-426-2711**.

NOVEMBER							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
DECEMBER							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
JANUARY							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	