



IRVINE · SUMMER 2016

# RECYCLING NEWS

Brought to you by Waste Management, Irvine's residential waste service provider.



**RECYCLE OFTEN.  
RECYCLE RIGHT.™**



We know a lot about how much is recycled and thrown away thanks to Waste Management's routine monitoring of Irvine's trash and recycling loads. Called waste characterizations, these studies show that, while Irvine residents recycle at a very high rate compared to the rest of the County, some recyclables still end up in the trash and about 15% of each recycling load is actually comprised of non-recyclable trash.

Recyclables and trash don't mix!  
Keep recyclables out of the trash.



"The most common trash we find in the recycling carts are things like rope, electronics, or construction materials. On the other side, we see a lot of cardboard in the trash, which is very recyclable," explains WM District Manager Tom Koutroulis.

Recyclables and trash don't mix! Recyclable materials placed in the trash cannot be sorted before going to the landfill. And, each piece of trash sent to the Recycling Center (also called a Material Recovery Facility) must be sorted and removed or it ends up contaminating other recyclables.

### Improve Recycling at Home:

- Recycle all bottles, cans, and paper. These items are the easiest to recycle.
- Keep items dry. Food and liquids contaminate recycling loads.
- Individual plastic bags break down recycling equipment; place single plastic bags inside one plastic bag before placing them in the recycling cart
- Additional recycling and green waste carts are available at no additional charge. To order, contact Waste Management at (949)642-1191



**GO "RED, WHITE AND GREEN" THIS 4th OF JULY!**



As you plan your 4th of July picnic, keep these tips in mind to go green while celebrating the red, white and blue!

1. Become independent of disposable plates, cups and utensils, and utilize reusable party ware.
2. Set up a specially marked recycling container to collect all bottles and cans.
3. Consider petroleum-free charcoal starter, available at hardware stores.

### Safe Disposal of BBQ Coals:

- Do not place hot coals directly into trash containers. To speed up the cooling process, place coals in a metal container full of water.
- Once coals and ash are cooled, dispose of them in your trash cart. They do not belong in your recycling or green waste carts.

### APARTMENT & CONDO RECYCLING

Irvine multifamily complexes have recycling programs, and the City encourages residents to participate. Ask your property manager about recycling bin locations, or ask them to set up recycling service with Waste Management if a program is not already in place.

## FOOD – TOO GOOD TO WASTE

On average, a family of four in the United States throws away about 15 pounds of food per week. To reduce the amount of food people throw away at home, the EPA has launched a simple five-tip program called:



Backyard composting is another great way to reduce your food waste. Find "How-To" information on the City's website: [cityofirvine.us](http://cityofirvine.us)

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STORAGE GUIDE

### INSIDE THE FRIDGE

- Apples, berries, cherries, grapes, kiwi, lemons, oranges

### After ripening at room temperature:

- melons, nectarines, apricots, peaches, plums, avocados, pears, tomatoes
- Almost all vegetables and herbs

### OUTSIDE THE FRIDGE

- Bananas, mangos, papayas, pineapples: store in a cool place
- Potatoes, onions: store in a cool, dark place
- Basil, winter squash: store at room temperature – once cut, store squashes in fridge

## SAFE DISPOSAL OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes substances that are toxic, explosive, or flammable. They don't belong in your trash cart and must be handled with care to protect the community and the environment.

Irvine residents may bring HHW to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at 6411 Oak Canyon in Irvine, Tuesday - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed holidays and rainy days).

For more information, please visit [oclandfills.com](http://oclandfills.com) or contact the County at 714-834-4000.

### The following items are considered household hazardous waste:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Aerosols                              | Fire Extinguishers    |
| Antifreeze                            | Fluorescent lights    |
| Automotive Fluids                     | Mercury Thermometers  |
| Batteries (Auto and Household)        | Motor Oil and Filters |
| Cleaning Solutions                    | Paint                 |
| Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) | Pesticides            |
| Electronic-Waste                      | Pool Supplies         |
| Fertilizers                           | Sharps/Needles        |