

SAC Outreach: Trash Talks List¹

April 2023- March 2025

Trash Talk:

A solid waste series on what goes where

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is talking trash.

As a service to residents, the committee has prepared a series of reminders on what kinds of materials should go into each color of cart — green, gray and blue. We will publish a new reminder every week for the next few months. Our big push is to get folks more familiar with organic recycling and to provide tips on how to deal with the food waste that should go into the green cart.

We thank Del Mar resident Amelie Roy, 12, for creating the Trash Talk mascot. Thanks also to EDCO for being a great partner in recycling.

Trash Talk: Did you know...

- ... that food waste can be stored in the freezer or fridge before placing it in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that you can recycle Styrofoam (no pellets though)?
- ... that animal waste goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that cut flowers go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that plastic lids of takeout cups can be recycled?
- ... that "compostable" plastic bags go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that Styrofoam meat trays with no food debris can be recycled in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that wax paper goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that used paper tea bags go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that aluminum trays and pie plates without food debris are recyclable?
- ... that parchment paper goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that used coffee grounds and paper filters go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that spoiled food goes in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that plastic buckets, empty trash cans, and laundry baskets are recyclable?
- ... that compostable plastic food containers often go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that cardboard sleeves on takeout coffee cups go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that recyclable food and beverage containers do not require rinsing as long as they are free of food and liquids?
- ... that bubble wrap, plastic bags, and films go in the gray trash cart but can be recycled at major grocery stores?
- ...that you can wrap your organic waste in newspaper or place it in a paper bag for disposal in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that it is helpful if you place plastic lids back on plastic containers before recycling?

¹ The appellation of the carts has been adjusted for consistency (gray trash cart, blue recycling cart, and green organic recycling cart).

- ... that treated wood goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that paper straws go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that shredded paper can go in the blue recycling cart but must be in a clear plastic bag?
- ... that ceramics can't be recycled and go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that houseplants go in the green organic recycling cart and that some soil on the roots is okay?
- ... that all glass food containers are recyclable?
- ... that Halloween pumpkins go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that plastic containers without a chasing arrow and a number can be recycled?
- ... that waxed paper plates and cups go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that soiled (unwaxed) paper plates go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that recyclable food and beverage containers should have no remaining food residue?
- ... that EDCO provides free kitchen caddies for food scraps to residential customers?
- ... that holiday wrapping paper goes in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that tissue paper goes in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that living Christmas trees (not flocked) go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that takeout cardboard containers lined with plastic go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that residential customers can receive unlimited green carts for free?
- ... that all plastic takeout containers are recyclable?
- ... that shellfish scraps go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that rinsed cartons for milk, juice, soup, and wine can be recycled?
- ... that nuts and shells go in the green organic cart?
- ... that empty juice boxes go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that wood ashes go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that meat and bones go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that paper ice cream cartons go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that juice pouches go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that spoiled dairy products go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that Styrofoam, plastic, and paper egg cartons go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that plastic Easter egg toys go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that human and pet hair go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that mixed paper, including receipts, goes in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that candy and chocolate bar wrappers go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that weeds and other yard waste go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that metal utensils go in the blue recycling cart, but should be reused or donated if they are in good condition?
- ... that plastic bread bags go in the trash and that major grocery stores recycle plastic bags?
- ... that expired cereals go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that envelopes with a plastic window go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that paper envelopes that are padded with plastic go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that unwrapped candies go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that metal hangers go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that bamboo utensils go in the gray trash cart?

- ... that nail clippings go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that CD's and plastic cases that can't be donated go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that used cotton swabs and tissue paper go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that popsicle sticks and toothpicks go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that ink cartridges can be recycled at office supply stores?
- ... that unusable garden hose goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that stale or moldy baked goods should be placed in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that plastic bottle caps, along with the bottles, go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that soiled bandages, disposable sheets and medical gloves must be bagged before going in the gray trash cart?
- ... that cooking oil and grease in liquid and hardened form go in the green organic recycling cart or can be taken to an EDCO buyback center?
- ... that soft cover books that can't be donated go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that pre-formed "blister packaging" for pharmaceuticals goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that eggshells go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that empty plastic soap bottles go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that shoes that can't be donated go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that sawdust from non-chemically-treated wood goes in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that Halloween pumpkins go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that empty yogurt tubs go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that used facial tissue goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that paper napkins soiled with food go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that aluminum trays and pans without food debris go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that plastic utensils go in the gray trash cart? Consider choosing reusable cutlery and refusing single-use items.
- ... that wheat straw goes in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that empty beer cans go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that expired jams and jellies go in the green organic recycling cart? Empty jars go in the blue cart.
- ... that cat litter goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that wine corks made of cork or plastic go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that small tree limbs go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that soup, broth, and wine cartons go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that wilted flowers go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that broken glass goes in the gray trash cart?
- ... that sticks and twigs go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that empty plastic tubs with lids go in the blue recycling cart?
- ... that cosmetics go in the gray trash cart?
- ... that used paper towels go in the green organic recycling cart?
- ... that empty plastic plant pots and trays go in the blue recycling cart?