



Alameda County Industries

# ORGANIC WASTE REDUCTION GUIDELINES FOR OUR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

## Prevent Food Waste

Californians throw away nearly 6 million tons of food waste each year.

FIND FOOD WASTE PREVENTION TIPS AT:  
[www.StopFoodWaste.org](http://www.StopFoodWaste.org)  
[www.SavetheFood.com](http://www.SavetheFood.com)  
[www.ivaluefood.com](http://www.ivaluefood.com)



### SMALL STEPS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

- Use perishable produce quickly.
- Track inventory to prevent over-ordering and spoilage.
- Store all food properly. (Typically below 40 degrees Fahrenheit for refrigerators and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for freezers, consult your local health code requirements.)
- Keep your storage equipment in good working order.
- Prepare for power loss by having a back up power plan.

### GIVE EDIBLE LEFTOVERS TO EMPLOYEES OR DONATE EDIBLE FOOD TO A CHARITY OR FOOD BANK.

- Alameda Food Bank  
[www.alamedafoodbank.org](http://www.alamedafoodbank.org) • 510-523-5850
- Food Shift  
[foodshift.net/food-donation-guidelines/](http://foodshift.net/food-donation-guidelines/) • (510) 898-7812
- Alameda County Community Food Bank  
[accfb.org](http://accfb.org) • 1-510-635-FOOD (3663)
- [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Food/Donation/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Food/Donation/)
- For a list of organizations in Alameda County that accept food donations, visit our website: [www.alamedacountyindustries.com/alameda/commercial/resources/](http://www.alamedacountyindustries.com/alameda/commercial/resources/).

## Did You Know?

YOU WON'T BE SUED FOR DONATING LEFTOVER FOOD.

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act passed in 1996 protects restaurants from civil and criminal liability should a recipient get ill or hurt as a result of consumed donated food. Donors are only culpable in cases of gross negligence or intentional misconduct. SOURCE: [www.EPA.gov](http://www.EPA.gov)



### If it Won't Rot, Green is Not the Spot!

FOOD SCRAPS, FOOD-SOILED PAPER, AND YARD TRIMMINGS BELONG IN THE GREEN ORGANICS CARTS OR BINS.

Remember to keep it clean and avoid contamination: **NØ Styrofoam®, Plastic, Glass, or Metal.** For a full list of what belongs in your **Organics** bin or cart, visit: [www.alamedacountyindustries.com/alameda/commercial/resources/](http://www.alamedacountyindustries.com/alameda/commercial/resources/).

### SAY NO TO FOOD-PACKAGING WASTE!

- Offer recyclable or reusable take out containers.
  - Avoid offering single-serve/single-use items. (See "Rethink Disposable Technical Assistance Program" on other side)
- Reduce and reuse before you recycle. Visit [www.StopWaste.org/recycle](http://www.StopWaste.org/recycle) for tips on using less.



## The ReThink Disposable Technical Assistance Program

Prevent waste before it starts! By reducing single use disposable packaging, your food service business can:

- Conserve resources.
- Prevent waste.
- Reduce ocean pollution.
- Increase operational efficiency.
- Improve customer satisfaction.
- Save money.

For more program information and materials, visit: [www.rethinkdisposable.org/businesses](http://www.rethinkdisposable.org/businesses).



## Does a Landscaping Company Off-Haul Your Yard Trimmings?

CalRecycle requires businesses to provide written documentation from the landscaper that the material is being hauled to a facility that composts it for AB1826 compliance. A form is available on our website: <https://www.alamedacountyindustries.com/alameda/commercial/forms/>. For more information about the requirement, visit: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/OrganicsFAQ/#Compliance](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/OrganicsFAQ/#Compliance). (Section B-Business; question 49)



## Proper Sorting Makes a Difference!



### USE YOUR CONTAINERS TO SORT YOUR WASTE FOR:

- **Compliance with California regulations:** AB341, AB1826, and SB1383.
- **A reduction in the amount of material going to the landfill.** Of the 39 million tons of waste disposed of in California landfills in 2018, one third was compostable organic materials.
- **A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.** Anaerobic decomposition of organic materials in landfills produces methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), a greenhouse gas that contributes to pollution and global warming. Composting organic material sequesters carbon and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

## Recycling & Composting is Required. We Can Help!

- Properties with on-site service must place recyclables and plant debris in designated collection containers. Learn more at: [RecyclingRulesAC.org](http://RecyclingRulesAC.org).
- Contact us to make the most of our **RECYCLABLES** and **ORGANICS** collection programs. Our staff can:
  - Visit your business to conduct waste assessments.
  - Make service suggestions.
  - Help train staff and/or tenants.
  - Provide posters and service guides.



## When in Doubt...Find Out! Contact Us!

voice - 510-483-1400

email - [info@AlamedaCountyIndustries.com](mailto:info@AlamedaCountyIndustries.com)

website - [www.AlamedaCountyIndustries.com](http://www.AlamedaCountyIndustries.com)

Our website is mobile-friendly and translatable!

Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle again!

SOURCE: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/organics](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/organics).