

aci Residential News

Proudly Serving the Alameda Community and Aiming for Zero Waste!

Shop Smarter to Reduce Food Waste

Food is too essential to throw away. By making small shifts in how you shop, you can waste less, eat well, save money, and save resources.

SMART SHOPPING STRATEGIES:

Check what you already have.

Take a quick look through your fridge, freezer, and pantry before shopping. Note which ingredients you already have, especially those that need to be used soon. Build these ingredients into your plan for the week.

ACTION: Use the "Eat This First" sign* to manage need-to-use items in your fridge and pantry.

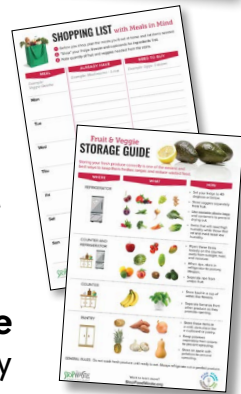
Make a plan. Before heading to the store or market, make a plan for the week's meals, including nights when you will be too busy to cook or will go out. A plan helps you to avoid overbuying food.

ACTION: Download and print a shopping list* to help guide your plan.

Shop fresh more frequently and buy loose produce. If possible, instead of one big weekly haul, consider smaller, more frequent trips, especially for perishable items like produce, dairy, and bread. This helps you buy what you'll actually eat before it spoils. Choose individual fruits and vegetables instead of pre-bagged quantities. This lets you buy exactly the amount you need and reduces the chance of items going to waste.

ACTION: Consult the storage guide* to help keep your produce fresher, longer.

*Find resources and more tips by scanning the QR code, or visiting StopWaste.org/food/reducing-food-waste/at-home/plan-your-meals-shopping



The Food Shift Seasonal Kitchen Guide

The Food Shift Seasonal Kitchen



Guide highlights twelve produce items, readily available and affordable in Alameda County, in a calendar-style format. The guide also includes storage tips and food waste prevention practices. Download the guide by visiting Stopfoodwaste.org/resource/food-shift-kitchen-guide

Help End Hunger in the Community

There are many ways to support essential local food organizations that help nourish our communities.



- The Alameda Food Bank
AlamedaFoodBank.org
- The Alameda County Community Food Bank
accfb.org
- Food Shift
Foodshift.net

Sustainable Holiday Practices

Try second-hand first for gifts. Shop at vintage, resale, consignment, or thrift stores.

Shop at local stores. Support local businesses that focus on sustainable, lasting goods. Avoid buying online - it creates additional packaging and transportation waste.

Give experiences. Gift tickets to a museum, gift cards to a local restaurant, or home-cooked meals, baked goods, and homemade treats to share.

Try an alternative Christmas tree. Try renting or adopting a tree. Search the internet for local sources. Decorate a plant or tree you already have, or purchase a potted tree you can use every year or plant after the holidays.



Holiday Tree Collection

ACI will collect holiday trees curbside from **Dec. 26 - Jan. 31** on your regular service day. Check your mailbox in December for a reminder postcard.

REMEMBER:

- Remove all decorations, lights, and stands.
- Keep trees loose. Do not wrap or bag them.
- Cut your tree in half if it is taller than 6'.
- Small trees can be placed inside your **ORGANICS** cart.
- Flocked trees are accepted, but will not be composted.
- Artificial trees are not accepted and belong in the garbage when reuse is no longer viable.
- Tree collection will occur with special trucks at different times than your regular collection services.



FOR MORE INFO, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
AlamedaCountyIndustries.com/alameda/holiday



Holiday Service Schedule

THANKSGIVING WEEK:

If your regular collection day is Thursday or Friday, service will be one day later.

CHRISTMAS WEEK & NEW YEAR'S DAY WEEK:

If your regular collection day is Friday, your containers will be serviced one day later.

NOVEMBER 23 - 28, 2026

If your collection day is:	Mon. 23	Tue. 24	Wed. 25	Thu. 26	Fri. 27
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 23	Tue. 24	Wed. 25	Fri. 27	Sat. 28

DECEMBER 21 - 26, 2026

If your collection day is:	Mon. 21	Tue. 22	Wed. 23	Thu. 24	Fri. 25
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 21	Tue. 22	Wed. 23	Thu. 24	Sat. 26

DEC 28, 2026 - JAN 2, 2027

If your collection day is:	Mon. 28	Tue. 29	Wed. 30	Thu. 31	Fri. 1
Your holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 28	Tue. 29	Wed. 30	Thu. 31	Sat. 2

Happy Holidays from everyone at ACI!



**Remember to:
Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle, Rot,
and Donate!**



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Office:

M-F: 7am-6pm
2307 Blanding Ave. Ste. B
Alameda, CA 94501

Contact us:

AlamedaCountyIndustries.com
info@AlamedaCountyIndustries.com
510-483-1400

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