



## Enjoy, reflect, and please remember to recycle & compost



The holidays are a time to enjoy friends and family, good meals, and festivities. We connect with others and pause to appreciate the positive sides of life.

Much of what we enjoy this time of year comes from the earth. We are encouraged to participate in efforts to protect the earth throughout the year and especially during this season of sharing. Total discards in San Francisco increase about 15 percent in November, December, and January compared to other months.

Yes, gifts will be presented in wrapping paper, which we can recycle in the blue bin. With online shopping comes cardboard boxes. Please flatten and

break them down so they fit in the blue recycling bin.

The holidays include some of the biggest food weeks of the year and opportunities to compost all kitchen trimmings from the preparation of meals as well as plate scrapings, coffee grounds, egg shells, and other scraps.

The holiday food we savor comes from farms. Returning food scraps to local farms in the form of finished compost is one of the most effective steps we can take in our efforts to help protect the environment. Compost returns nutrients to the soil, feeds microorganisms in topsoil, and attracts and retains water. All of these things help farms grow healthy food for our communities and our families.

It is also great to know that when we participate in San Francisco's green bin program we help give farmers a viable alternative to using chemical fertilizers. Compost is a natural soil amendment that improves soil health. Healthier soil supports healthy plants that produce

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more and higher-quality fruits and vegetables. Plants on farms that receive compost are also better able to withstand pests and high temperatures.

The number of empty bottles, cans, and other beverage containers generated in San Francisco also increases significantly during the holidays. Please be sure to recycle all containers, especially glass bottles and jars, in the blue bin. We offer this little rhyme as a friendly reminder: "Bottles in blue and glass jars too."

For more tips and information, including downloadable signs and flyers, go to [RecologySF.com](http://RecologySF.com) and click on "Helpful Resources." If we all do our part to sort correctly into the blue and green bins, we can help our City get much closer to achieving zero waste, the goal of sending nothing to landfills. Working toward that end benefits the environment and, in turn, all of us. Thank you for doing your part, and happy holidays.

## 2017–2018 holiday collection schedule



Collection crews will work on **Thanksgiving Day**, Nov. 23. The office will be closed.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>DEC. 25</b> No service	<b>DEC. 26</b> Monday service	<b>DEC. 27</b> Tuesday service	<b>DEC. 28</b> Wednesday service	<b>DEC. 29</b> Thursday service	<b>DEC. 30</b> Friday service	<b>DEC. 31</b> No service
<b>JAN. 1</b> No service	<b>JAN. 2</b> Monday service	<b>JAN. 3</b> Tuesday service	<b>JAN. 4</b> Wednesday service	<b>JAN. 5</b> Thursday service	<b>JAN. 6</b> Friday service	<b>JAN. 7</b> No service



**Christmas Tree Collection program runs Jan. 2–12.** Please place clean, unflocked trees at the curb. Remove all tinsel, decorations, plastic bags, stands, and lights. If your tree measures more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half.

# The unexpected benefit – using your curbside compost bin makes you a better recycler

**W**e feel good putting our food scraps in the compost collection bin knowing they will be made into nutrient-rich compost to be applied to local farms.

Composting also keeps materials out of landfills and saves tremendous amounts of water. How? Applying compost feeds the microorganisms in topsoil. Healthy soil is the foundation of beautiful farms and gardens. So when we toss food scraps in the green bin we help grow healthy fruits and vegetables that come back to our own tables.

These beneficial results provide great incentives to participate in San Francisco's compost collection program. Now to composting's unexpected benefit: Curbside composting, particularly the composting of wet and moist food scraps, improves the quality of recycled materials in San Francisco's blue bins.

Let us explain. When we place coffee grounds, food scraps, and used paper plates and napkins in compost collection bins, these materials never come in contact with the bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, and other materials we put in our recycling (blue) bins. Therefore, our recycling materials are drier, cleaner, and



easier to sort and market.

That's very important because the paper mills and other businesses that receive recyclables from San Francisco are requiring cleaner materials.

San Francisco took a positive environmental step when it instituted the curbside compost collection program. It is important, in our efforts to protect the environment, to continue to compost in the green bin. By composting more food

scraps, we will make more compost to help improve soil health on even more area farms.

And we also will keep materials, such as paper and cardboard, in the blue recycling bins clean and dry. That will allow us to continue to send recyclables to manufacturing facilities where they can be made into new products, preserving natural resources such as trees and clean water.



## Book a special pickup

**R**ecology provides a special collection program called Bulky Item Recycling (BIR for short) for large items that are no longer usable. Use this service to clean out broken appliances, dilapidated furnishings, and other damaged things cluttering your garage or house.

Residential customers, including apartment tenants, can use this service for up to 10 items per bulky item collection. Go to [RecologySF.com](http://RecologySF.com) to see complete program rules and to schedule your pickup online. For items in working order, go to [recyclewhere.org](http://recyclewhere.org) to learn about donation options.

The BIR program is provided as a curbside service to residential customers at no additional cost. If you can't get your bulky items to the curb, we can provide a quote for inside service.

To schedule a BIR pickup, call our Customer Service Department in San Francisco at (415) 330-1300. Customers can also submit a BIR collection request through [RecologySF.com](http://RecologySF.com)

## Rates for low-income households

**W**e have made it easier for low-income households in San Francisco to receive a 25 percent discount on recycling and trash collection services.

If you qualify to participate in PG&E's low-income rate program, CARE, you can also qualify for Recology's program, previously known as Lifeline Rates.

To confirm your qualification, simply mail, fax, or forward by email to Recology a copy of your current PG&E bill showing participation in the CARE program. The name and address on your PG&E account must match the name and address on your Recology account, and you may be asked to verify annually.

**Recology's mailing address:**  
250 Executive Park Blvd., Suite 2100  
San Francisco, CA 94134  
Fax: (415) 330-1338  
Email: [customerservice@recologysf.com](mailto:customerservice@recologysf.com)

### RECYCLING, COMPOST, AND TRASH COLLECTION:

Recology Sunset Scavenger  
(415) 330-1300

Recology Golden Gate  
(415) 626-4000

Debris Box Service  
(888) 404-4008

BulkyItemRecycling.com  
(415) 330-1300

