

OC Recycle Guide



AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, FLARES AND FIREWORKS



OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers do not accept ammunition, explosives, marine flares or fireworks. [OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) can accept road flares.

OPTIONS:

Call your local police station or sheriff department for ammunition or gun “take back” days. Some stations will accept ammunition in small amounts. Local gun ranges will sometimes collect dud rounds or unused ammunition and dispose of them properly. For tips on disposal/recycling of flares, visit [here](#) or the [California Department of Toxic Substance Control \(CDTSC\)](#) at (800) 728-6942.

Contact your local authorities to inquire about ammunition, explosives, or fireworks:

- [Orange County Police Departments](#) (Cities)
- [Orange County Sheriff Department](#) (Unincorporated areas) or call the Sheriff's Hazardous Device Section (714) 538-2694.
- [Orange County Fire Authority](#) (Fireworks disposal)

TIPS:

Always contact your source for proper guidelines on transporting, packaging or delivering sensitive items for recycling or disposal.

APPLIANCES, LARGE & SMALL



Most appliances are made of steel, which is the most recycled material in the U.S. Recycling options vary based on the type of appliance and working or non-working conditions.

OPTIONS

Working Appliances

Working appliances can be donated to a charity or local re-use organization. Some Orange County resources include:

- [Goodwill OC](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity](#)

Contact the organization first to confirm acceptable items. Ask about pick-up options or any upcoming collection events near you.

Non-working Small Appliances

Small appliances such as blenders, toasters, vacuums, etc. that have digital components or screens can be taken to an [OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center](#).

Large Appliance (White Goods)

White goods are items such as refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, dishwashing machines or freezers. Orange County residents may take white goods to your local public [landfill](#) where they are collected for recycling.

TIP:

The majority of trash haulers provide bulky-item pick up for large appliance recycling or disposal. Contact your local hauler to see if you qualify for bulky-item pick up services.

Other Recycling Options (privately owned and operated):

- [OC recycling centers, transfer stations and scrap metal recyclers](#)

BATTERIES



OPTIONS

Batteries (button cell, lithium, silver oxide, zinc-air and zinc-carbon) are considered hazardous waste and require special care upon disposal or recycling. Car batteries should also be handled properly (see tips below). Batteries should never be disposed of in your trash bin due to environmental impacts to the landfill and potential fire hazards.

Residential battery disposal (all types):

- [OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) (free to OC residents)
- [Cities](#) (some offer battery collection onsite or have additional information)
- [Call2Recycle](#) (national battery recycling program)

Battery Disposal for Businesses:

- [OC Business Hazardous Waste](#)

TIPS:

Some local retailers such as hardware and home improvement stores offer battery recycling programs. Auto part stores and retail centers with auto services may also accept car batteries for recycling. For a more recycling tips or to find a location near you, try

<http://www.earth911.com>

BOATS



OPTIONS

Recycling

For information and resources to recycle or repurpose a boat, boat parts or other water craft, view this article on earth911.com [here](#).

Disposal

If boat or its parts cannot be recycled or repurposed, you may dispose of it at an [OC Landfill](#). To schedule an appointment for disposal, contact the OC Waste & Recycling offices at 714-834-4000 and ask to speak to a Material Regulation Specialist.

BOOKS



With the conversion of most books and magazines to electronic readers, you may have a stock pile of old books and subscriptions waiting to be disposed of or donated. Both books and magazines fall under “mixed paper” and should be recycled or donated for reuse (try used book stores, libraries, classrooms, senior centers, kids clubs, book clubs and exchanges).

OPTIONS

Curbside Recycling Bin

If you cannot donate or re-purpose the items, magazines and paperback books can recycle in full in your recycling bin. For hardcover books, the covers might need to be removed as they can have non-paper components to them. Check with your local [trash hauler](#) for more details.

Other Options

- [Recycling Centers](#) - (privately owned and operated) some local recycling centers and other organizations accept books to recycle.
- [Cities](#) - Check with your city recycling coordinator or website for opportunities throughout the year such as free paper shredding or donation events.

TIP:

Wet books and magazines cannot be recycled due to the manipulated fiber. Please dispose of wet books and magazines in your trash waste bin or research if the pages can be used to compost.

CANS



Aluminum and tin cans are used often for pet food, soda, and canned goods such as fruit and vegetables. Clean, dry aluminum cans can be placed in a curbside recycle bin or collected and brought to recycling centers near grocery stores or other independent recycling center locations.

OPTIONS

Residential curbside recycling

Aluminum and most other metal cans can go in your curbside recycle bin for weekly pick-up. Cans should be rinsed out, clean and dried of all food waste or liquids. Residue can contaminate recyclables causing them to be sent to the landfill. Always check with your local [trash hauler](#) for specific instructions or requirements, including handling of aerosol cans.

Recycling Centers

Privately owned and operated recycling centers are available to redeem aluminum cans for redemption value. Check [here](#) for a location near you.

City Recycling Coordinators

Your city [recycling contact](#) is another great resource for the closest recycling center and other local options.

TIPS:

Aerosol cans containing hazardous materials should be disposed of by hazardous waste guidelines or residents can drive through and drop off at and [OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center](#).

CAR SEATS



OPTIONS

Safety First

For safety reasons, it's best not to donate, sell or reuse a car seat that has been recalled, in an accident or is expired. Also, the current plastics recycling market can be highly unpredictable. Global factors or regulations can impact recyclers and waste haulers' ability to accept car seat components in a curbside recycling bin. Check with your [city waste hauler](#) or [city recycling coordinator](#) for potential options specific to your area.

Retail Locations

Some retailers offer local car-seat trade in programs. Check large discount and chain stores to see if they have a car seat turn-in program. Sometimes you may receive store credit or monetary reward for your car seat.

Curbside Recycle Bin

If your car seat is unusable, some waste haulers may take the plastic portions of the car seat in your regular recyclable bin. Please check directly with your [hauler](#) for details.

TIP:

It's a good idea to keep up to date on the most current child safety seat laws. For more information, visit the California Highway Patrol page [here](#).

CARDBOARD



OPTIONS

Residential Curbside pick-up:

Dry, non-soiled cardboard can be recycled for curbside pick-up. Check with [your city trash hauler](#) regarding how it is preferred curbside. Some request large, flattened boxes outside the bin, while others accept cardboard directly inside the recycle bin. Please do NOT place wet cardboard in any recycle bin.

Recycling preparation:

Please remove any bubble-wrap, styrofoam or shipping paper contained in cardboard boxes used for shipping.

Recycling drop-offs:

You can find local recycling centers [online](#) that will recycle cardboard.

TIP:

Food-soiled boxes such as oil stained pizza boxes should be thrown in your trash bin (if you cannot use it to compost) unless you can cut the soiled areas off to recycle the clean portion of the cardboard.

CARS, VEHICLES AND AUTO PARTS



OPTIONS

Whether you're replacing a single car part or looking to get rid of portions or an entire car, many parts can be recycled or remanufactured through local resources.

Examples include:

- Used engine oil – OC HHW Collection Center or local auto part stores
- Oil filters – tire or auto part stores, OC HHW Collection Centers
- Auto glass – salvage yards
- Engines and transmissions – salvage yards, auto repair shops, mechanics
- Scrap metal (rims, door handles, etc.) – scrap metal yards
- Car batteries – auto part stores, salvage yards, OC HHW Collection Centers
- Tires – tire stores, salvage yards
- Always contact a location to confirm they accept your item and for any instructions on proper handling for transportation.

Orange County resources:

- ➔ [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#)
- ➔ [Earth911 – Where to Recycle?](#)

TIPS:

Research and donate a used vehicle to a reputable charity. Many are available that help causes such as veterans, children or low income families. Contact [the California Department of Motor Vehicles](#) for more information on steps to take when donating a vehicle.

CDS AND TAPES



OPTIONS

CDs and Videotapes

CDs, DVDs and old videotapes are not considered hazardous waste. However, some playback systems may be considered e-waste. Consider the following options:

- Donate your old CDs and DVDs to a secondhand store such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army for reuse. Visit [Earth911](#) for locations near you.
- Reuse CDs, DVDs and videotapes for a DIY art project
- Mail your CDs to a media company such as [CD Recycling Center of America](#)
- E-waste: [OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) (see below)

→ **Anaheim Collection Center**

1071 N. Blue Gum Street, Anaheim, CA 92806

→ **Huntington Beach Collection Center**

17121 Nichols Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

→ **Irvine Collection Center**

6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618

→ **San Juan Capistrano Collection Center**

32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

TIP: Find alternate uses for old CDs and Tapes - [10 reuse ideas for CDs and DVDs](#)

CELL PHONES



OPTIONS

Cellphones are considered e-waste. After removing personal data from the device, you can trade it in with the retailer when purchasing a new one, mail it in for recycling or take it to one of the participating retailers in the Call2Recycle national recycling program.

Some residential waste haulers may offer household hazardous waste or e-waste collection to customers. Check with your hauler for more details.

- [List of city waste haulers](#) (Orange County)
- [Call2Recycle](#) (national recycle program)
- [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) (OC residents)

CHEMICALS



OPTIONS

Only household chemicals are allowed for drop off at our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. For a listing of what is accepted click [here](#) (HHW factsheet). For other items besides household chemicals, please see below. Please note any special considerations for transporting hazardous materials such as allowable quantities.

OC Health Care agency provides information on proper disposal practices regarding chemicals. Click [here](#).

CLOTHING AND SHOES



OPTIONS

DONATION

You can donate old clothes and shoes to your local thrift store. Some church groups and school organizations may also accept these items for donations to families in need and mission trips.

- [Goodwill So Cal](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [USagain Collection Bins](#)

Recycling. You can look up organizations who will take your old textiles and shoes to recycle. Companies like H&M have clothing recycle programs.

Disposal. If there are no options for your old clothing and shoes, they can go into your curbside trash bin. Clothing and shoes cannot go into the recycling bin.

COMPUTERS, TELEVISIONS , ELECTRONICS



OPTIONS

What is e-waste?

Electronic waste includes items such as televisions, cellphones, computers, tablets, keyboards and other electronics. If an item is in working condition and can be reused or repurposed, consider donating it to a reputable charity or organization after removing any personal data.

How to dispose of or recycle e-waste?

Some [city waste hauling services](#) may provide curbside e-waste pick-up and disposal. Contact your waste hauler or visit their website to find out if these services are offered.

Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Residential e-waste falls under the category of household hazardous waste. County residents may drop off electronics along with other hazardous waste items at the four locations below for free. For hours of operation and details on what can be taken to the centers, including proper transportation and handling, visit the link below.

- [Anaheim](#) - 1071 N. Blue Gum St.
- [Huntington Beach](#) - 17121 Nichols St.
- [Irvine](#) - 6411 Oak Canyon
- [San Juan Capistrano](#) - 32250 Avenida La Pata

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE



OPTIONS

Depending on the type of project, compliance with OC Waste & Recycling's Construction & Demolition (C&D) Program may be required by OC Public Works/Planning. Your project will not be finalized until you comply with the 65% diversion requirement associated with applicable construction and demolition projects. Applicants can achieve diversion through reuse, recycling, and/or composting of construction and demolition materials at County-approved facilities or use of a County Franchised Waste Hauler.

Below you can find the application packet and other useful information regarding the C&D program. **Please remember to save your disposal receipts. To apply for compliance, you must turn in your disposal receipts and the completed tonnage report to CDRecyclingProgram@ocwr.ocgov.com.** For more information, please email the same address or call (714) 834-4000.

Application Materials:

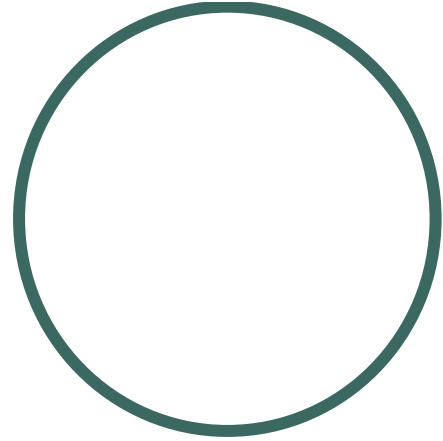
- **C&D Program Application Packet:** Includes Compliance Work Plan, Final Compliance Report, approved facilities and information and instructions.
- **C&D Final Compliance Report:** Please submit this form to OC Waste & Recycling when you have completed your project.
- **Approved facilities**

Additional Resources:

- ➔ **[Recycling, Construction and Demolition Debris, Green Waste Processors](#)**
- ➔ **[Treated Wood Disposal](#)**
- ➔ **[Business Hazardous Waste](#)**



DISPOSABLE DISHES



OPTIONS

In orange county, each city may have a different trash hauler with differing instructions on what should or should not go into your home recycle bin. Most haulers list detailed recycling information on their website.

Contact your [waste hauler](#) for specific instructions on the type of disposal dishes and utensils that can or can't be recycled.

In most cases, these plastic items should be placed in the curbside trash bin. If paper plates and cups cannot be composted, they should be placed in the trash bin to avoid contamination of your recycle bin from food, liquids and grease.

DOG BEDS



OPTIONS

Gently used dog beds and other pet supplies can be repurposed and put to a good cause by donating to OC Animal Care or other pet rescue organizations. Common items needed include:

- Small dog beds
- Pillow cases
- Blankets
- Towels
- Newspapers
- Toilet paper roll tubes

For more information, contact [OC Animal Care](#) about drop-off donation locations and times.

EGG CARTONS, MOLDED PULP ITEMS



OPTIONS

Egg cartons that are made of molded pulp or paper can be recycled in your regular curbside recycling. Other molded pulp items such as drink trays can also be recycled or composted.

Note: Egg cartons that are Styrofoam or made of clear plastic cannot be recycled and should go in the trash bin. Check with your [city waste hauler](#) for more details.

ELECTRICAL CORDS/POWER CORDS



OPTIONS

Cords can contain highly recyclable metals such as copper or aluminum. The insulating layers made of plastic or rubber around the wires are not recyclable.

If the cord is still in working order, try donating to local STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs or a friend or family member.

If donating them is not an option, take old and/or damaged cords to an e-waste facility, such as the [OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#), which are free to County residents. Some electronic retail stores have e-waste recycling programs in place. It's a good idea to give the store a call to check and learn more.

For more great information about recycling power cords and extension cords, you can visit [Earth911](#).

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



OPTIONS

Fire extinguishers are made of highly recyclable materials like aluminum and steel. **Do NOT put your fire extinguisher in your curbside recycling bin.** The pressurized container is explosive and can cause injury when compacted in a truck or in machinery at a material recovery facility.

Take fire extinguishers (**under 40 pounds**) to a [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center](#). Centers are free to OC residents and open five days a week, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (except during rain and major holidays).

- [Anaheim Collection Center](#)
1071 N. Blue Gum Street, Anaheim, CA 92806
- [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#)
17121 Nichols Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92647
- [Irvine Collection Center](#)
6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618
- [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#)
32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

FOOD WASTE & LEFTOVERS



OPTIONS

Composting

Most food waste and leftovers can be composted. This helps to keep waste out of landfills. Compost can be great as fertilizer and can help you save money on your garden. Some trash haulers will provide composting bags or even bins for your leftover food and food scraps. Contact your [city trash hauler](#) to find out what is available in your area.

Edible Food Recovery

Have food to donate? Donate unwanted food to local food pantries through [Waste Not OC](#) (WNOC). WNOC is a coalition of food banks, pantries, food retailers, waste haulers and the OC Health Department. These entities are working to reduce hunger and food waste by recovering edible, wholesome food for distribution to local pantries serving those in our community facing food insecurity.

FURNITURE



OPTIONS

OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers do not accept furniture for drop off by residents.

Consider donating to a charity or local re-use organization. Some Orange County resources include:

- [Goodwill OC](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity](#)

TIP:

The majority of trash haulers provide bulky-item pick up for unwanted pieces of furniture. Contact your [local hauler](#) to see if you qualify for bulky-item pick up services.

GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS



OPTIONS

Curbside Pick-up

Glass bottles and jars are accepted in your weekly recycling bins for curbside pickup. But acceptable types can vary by city. Check with your [city waste hauler](#) or on their website for details regarding your area.

Recycling Centers

If you wish to take your glass bottles to a recycling center, check [here](#) to enter your zip code and locate a center near you.

Reuse

If your glass bottles and jars are still usable, you can donate them to local thrift stores or secondhand stores such as [Goodwill](#) and [Salvation Army](#). Bottles and glass jars make creative crafts for gifts or use as vases and other purposes around the home. Check social media and craft sites for clever ideas.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



Types of household hazardous waste:

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients are considered household hazardous waste or HHW. Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them.

OPTIONS:

OC residents can dispose of or recycle leftover Household Hazardous Waste items for FREE at any of the County's four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. Please note, the centers are not permitted to accept waste from businesses, churches, schools, non-profit organizations or government agencies, or from residents outside of Orange County. Additional HHW services may be available through your city. Contact your [city's recycling coordinator](#) to find out other ways to dispose of your HHW items in your community. Your [local trash hauler](#) may also have addition HHW services available.

Click [here](#) for detailed information regarding HHW, including a list of common items you can take to your local collection center.

Hours of Operation

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday (closed on major holidays and during rainy weather)
To confirm centers are open during rain events, call 714-834-4000

Locations:

[Anaheim](#) - 1071 N. Blue Gum St.
[Huntington Beach](#) - 17121 Nichols St.
[Irvine](#) - 6411 Oak Canyon
[San Juan Capistrano](#) - 32250 Avenida La Pata

Businesses Hazardous Waste

Several facilities operate independently of the County and provide services for handling business hazardous waste. Check [here](#) for information.

INSECTICIDES



OPTIONS

Insecticides contain chemicals that are harmful and should be disposed of appropriately to prevent any injury. OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers take insecticides for disposal or recycling of Household Hazardous Waste items (HHW) for FREE. Please note, the centers are not permitted to accept waste from businesses, churches, schools, non-profit organizations or government agencies, or from residents outside of Orange County. Additional HHW services may be available through your city. Contact your [city's recycling coordinator](#) to find out other ways to dispose of your HHW items in your community. Your [local trash hauler](#) may also have additional HHW services available. Click [here](#) for detailed information regarding HHW, including a list of common items you can take to your local collection center.

Hours of Operation

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday
(closed on major holidays and during rainy weather)
To confirm centers are open during rain events, call 714-834-4000

Locations

- [Anaheim](#) - 1071 N. Blue Gum St.
- [Huntington Beach](#) - 17121 Nichols St.
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Businesses Hazardous Waste

Several facilities operate independently of the County and provide services for handling business hazardous waste. Check [here](#) for information.

JUICE AND SOY MILK BOXES



OPTIONS

Juice boxes and soy milk boxes or cartons MAY be accepted in your weekly recycling bins for curbside pickup. But acceptable types can vary by city. Check with your [city waste hauler](#) or on their website for details regarding your area.

If not accepted in your home recycle bin, please dispose in your trash bin.

TIP:

Always be sure to avoid contamination in your recycle bin by making sure all containers are empty, clean and dry.

JUNK MAIL



OPTIONS

Curbside Recycling

Most junk mail can be recycled in your curbside recycling bin. Envelopes may also be included in this recycling. Check with your [city waste hauler](#) or on their website for details on what types of junk mail, brochures, coated papers, or stapled items should be avoided in the recycle bin. You may also contact services such as [DMAchoice](#) to see how to opt out of bulk mailings.

Recycling Center

Local recycling centers may also accept junk mail and newspapers for recycling. Check [here](#) for a recycling center near you.

KITTY LITTER



OPTIONS

Due to chemicals found in kitty litter as well as bacteria from pet ware, kitty litter should not be placed in your backyard composting bin and instead should be thrown out with your regular trash.

LICENSE PLATES



OPTIONS

Recycle

Recycle old license plates by returning them to the California [Department of Motor Vehicles](#). Contact a local office for details.

Reuse

Reuse old license plates as art or for other [creative projects](#).

LIGHTBULBS



OPTIONS

Incandescent lightbulbs cannot be recycled and should be thrown out in your regular trash bin. LED lightbulbs can be recycled for free at [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) for OC residents. The centers are open Tuesday through Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (excluding rain events and major holidays). For more information, call 714-834-4000.

→ [Anaheim Collection Center](#)

1071 N. Blue Gum Street

→ [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#)

17121 Nichols Street

→ [Irvine Collection Center](#)

6411 Oak Canyon

→ [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#)

32250 Avenida La Pata

MATTRESS



OPTIONS

Retailers

Did you buy a new mattress? Free mattress pick up may be provided at the time of delivery, at no additional cost. Check with your retailer if the option was not offered at the point of sale.

Bye Bye Mattress

Residents can drop off an old mattress for free through California's mattress recycling program. Check the recycling locator [here](#) to find a participating recycling center, mattress collection site or collection event.

Curbside Bulky Item Pick Up

Many residential trash haulers offer free bulky-item pick up to residents. Contact your [City trash hauler](#) to find out if these services are available in your area.

Landfills

Mattresses brought to OC landfills are set aside and recycled as part of the California mattress recycling program. For information on OC public landfill locations, hours of operation and fees, visit our page [here](#).

MEDICATIONS AND BOTTLES



OPTIONS

Most medications can be disposed of in the trash. However, it is important to take proper steps to prevent accidental ingestion when disposing of medication. Click [here](#) to learn about how to safely monitor, secure and destroy your medications. Empty plastic medication bottles can be placed in your home recycle bin.

Medication Drop Box Locations

There are several pharmacies and other medication drop box locations throughout the County that will take medications. Check [here](#) for a list.

Trash Hauler

Check if your [city trash hauler](#) provides safe medication disposal services.

OC Sheriff's Prescription Drug Disposal Locations

Check [here](#) for additional locations to take your prescription medications. Ask your City police department and Sheriff's departments for National Prescription Drug Take Back days hosted throughout the year.

Sharps

California law prohibits disposal of home-generated sharps waste in the trash or recycling containers and requires that all sharps waste be disposed of safely. Residents may dispose of secured sharps at OC's [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#). See additional resources below.

- [Environmental Protection Agency](#) - Safe needle disposal information
- [City Recycling Coordinators](#) - Check for safe sharps programs specific to your city
- [Mail Back Services](#) - See a list of approved services by the California Department of Public Health
- [Drug Enforcement Agency Take Back Day](#) - Find a collection site or Take Back Day near you

METAL, SCRAP METAL



OPTIONS

Depending on the metal, the following resources are available for metal recycling in Orange County:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers - propane tanks, fire extinguishers, etc.

County Construction and Demolition Program - home construction/reconstruction scrap metal

Recycling, Construction and Demolition Processors - Privately owned facilities not associated with the County of Orange

Online sites - Check various online "for sale" sites and apps for people looking to buy scrap metal.

NAILS AND SCREWS



OPTIONS

Donations

If nails and screws are rusted, please throw them out in your household trash bin. If your hardware is in good shape, contact [Habitat for Humanity](#) or other donation organizations that can repurpose supplies.

Recycle Centers & Metal Yards

Check your local recycle centers and metal yards to see if they may pay cash for your scrap. Check [here](#) to locate a center near you.

OXYGEN TANKS



OPTIONS

Oxygen tanks such as acetylene tanks and CO2 tanks should be returned to the manufacturing company for safe disposal and or recycle. Please contact the supply company directly for information on how to recycle or dispose of them.

earth911.com -- to find a possible location near you.

[Spectrum Gas Products in Anaheim](#) (714) 444-0477 -- oxygen tanks only (residential).

Note: OC [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) do not take high-pressure oxygen and air tanks.

PACKING MATERIALS



OPTIONS

Recycle Bin

Check with your [city waste hauler](#) to see if foam packaging material can be placed in your recycle bin. It may differ from city to city.

Shipping Companies and Postal Facilities

Check [here](#) for a local shipping or postal facility that may accept #6 plastic peanuts or packing materials.

PAINT



OPTIONS

PaintCare Drop Off Sites

PaintCare is a state program that plans special one-day paint drop-off events and sites where the public can take unwanted paint for recycling. Most are paint retailers, hardware and home improvement stores. Find a drop-off location [here](#).

OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

OC Residents can drop off unused paint at one of OC's free collection centers. Sites are open five days per week, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays (except major holidays or during rain events). For details regarding all items accepted, check our page [here](#).

- [Anaheim Collection Center](#): 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#): 17121 Nichols Street
- [Irvine Collection Center](#): 6411 Oak Canyon
- [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#): 32250 Avenida La Pata

PAPER CARTONS



OPTIONS

City Waste Hauler

Most waste haulers accept non-coated paper and cardboard cartons in the home recycle bin. However, some may not accept coated paper coffee cups, fast food cups or other waxy or coated food containers.

Check with your **specific waste hauler** as it may differ from city to city.

If you live in a multi-family unit or housing, check with your management company for recycling details and instructions.

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PAPER, MAGAZINES AND MAIL



OPTIONS

Residential curbside recycling

Check with your [city waste hauler](#) for details on what can be placed in your curbside recycle bin, including types of paper, coated or glossy papers, or items with staples or other binding. Most hauler web sites have detailed instructions or recommendations.

Recycling drop offs

Check earth911.com for a public recycling center that accepts your paper, magazine or mail.

TIPS:

Do recycle: magazines, mail (including envelopes), newspaper, copy paper, gift bags (cut off handles) and non glossy gift wrap.

Do not recycle: tissue paper, photo paper, carbon paper, soiled paper towels, dirty or greasy paper plates, glossy gift bows or metallic/foil wrapping paper. Check with your hauler regarding shredded paper, as it may cause issues at the material recovery facility that processes curbside recycling.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



OPTIONS

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ranges from face masks and gloves to eye protection and more. Single use face masks should be disposed of after use. Since they are not recyclable in most instances, they can be placed in the trash bin. The same goes for single use gloves, ear plugs, head covers and isolation gowns.

Please carefully remove PPE by not touching the outside or the front of the item, where it can potentially be contaminated. It is also best practice to thoroughly wash your hands after removal of PPE.

There are alternatives to single use PPE. For example, try a cloth face mask and wash it to keep it clean. Or earmuffs are a great reusable substitute for single use ear plugs.

Here are a few websites with more information about disposing PPE:

- [Is PPE Recyclable? How to Dispose of PPE Correctly](#)
- [Repurposing PPE: Recycling Plastic Waste into Clean, Useful Materials](#)
- [Saving the Earth From COVID Pollution: EcoBreathe Recyclable Face Mask](#)

There is also an option to set up a recycling service for PPE, where you can collect used PPE and send it back to be recycled. More information on that can be found [HERE](#).

PIZZA BOXES



OPTIONS

Although most pizza boxes are made of recyclable cardboard and paper, grease and leftover food can contaminate an entire bin of recyclable materials. If composting is not available, practice the following options.

Recycle Bin

Frozen pizza boxes or paper packaging go in the recycle bin. Recycle clean portions of a pizza box, such as the lid.

Trash Bin

If a pizza box is soiled with grease, cheese or other food, place it in your trash bin to avoid contamination.

PLASTIC BAGS AND PACKAGING



OPTIONS

Plastic bags should NOT be placed in your home recycle bin. These items are known as "tanglers" which can get stuck in sorting equipment at recycling facilities causing equipment failure and **processing delays**. This includes other forms of loose plastic packaging.

Retail Recycling

Grocery-style plastic bags can be recycled at many grocery and retail locations. Collect your bags at home and take them with you on your next shopping trip. To locate a collection site near you, check the Earth911.com locator **here**.

PLASTIC CAPS



OPTIONS

Home Recycle Bin

Acceptance of plastic caps, varies by recycling program. Check with your [city waste hauler](#) for specific information, including whether caps should be kept on or off bottles.

Other Recycling Programs

If your local recycling program doesn't accept caps and you know they are made of polypropylene, consider the [Preserve Gimme 5](#) program, where you can recycle all #5 plastics by mail.

PLASTIC CONTAINERS



OPTIONS

Home Recycle Bin

Many plastic containers are recyclable, but accepted types vary from city to city in Orange County. Check with your [local waste hauler](#) for specific instructions, including types of plastics accepted. Always practice recycling right by keeping any containers empty, clean and dry to avoid contamination.

Other Recycling Programs

If your local recycling program doesn't accept all plastic containers and you know they are made of polypropylene, consider the [Preserve Gimme 5](#) program, where you can recycle all #5 plastics by mail.

POTS AND PANS



OPTIONS

Repurpose

Are the pots and pans in usable condition to be donated? If so, try taking them to your local thrift shop, like Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

Recycle

Not likely in your residential recycling bin, check with your waste hauler. However you can search for a local scrap metal recycler who may accept depending on the type of metal.

For more details about recycling cookware, check out Earth911. For other options, consider:

- Donating to a Scout troop for camp outs
- Repurposing for arts and crafts; there are endless possibilities
- Turning old cookware into a play kitchen for children
- Using muffin pans as desk organizers

To get inspired with creative craft ideas, check out [DIY & Crafts](#).

PROPANE



OPTIONS

OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers can accept propane tanks that are 5-gallon or smaller. County residents may drop off propane tanks along with other hazardous waste items at the four locations below for free. For hours of operation and details on what can be taken to the centers, including proper transportation and handling, visit the link below.

- [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center Information](#)
- [Anaheim Collection Center](#): 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#): 17121 Nichols Street
- [Irvine Collection Center](#): 6411 Oak Canyon
- [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#): 32250 Avenida La Pata

Visit earth911.com for other private companies that may accept propane tanks.

Q-TIPS



OPTIONS

Compost

Did you know that Q-tip cotton swabs are biodegradable when composted? You can put these in your compost bin instead of your household trash. If composting is not an option, place in your trash bin. The sleeve and tray packaging can be recycled in your home recycle bin. If uncertain, always check with your [city waste hauler](#) for details.

QUILTS



OPTIONS

Quilts, blankets and comforters are perfect repurpose items. Following are several options for donation consideration.

Homeless Shelters

Contact a [local shelter](#) for donation opportunities. Many listings target specific age groups and vary by city.

OC Animal Shelter

In addition to monetary donations, OC Animal Shelter accepts many gently used pet items for shelter animals. These include pillow cases, blankets, small pet beds, newspaper, and empty toilet paper rolls. Check [here](#) for more information or to contact OC Animal Care directly.

Thrift Stores or Church Organizations

Check with your local thrift store or church/religious organization to see what items they accept.

DIY Projects

Research creative craft projects that can turn your quilt into something new or repurpose as a meaningful gift.

RADIOS



OPTIONS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Both car and home radios are considered e-waste and can be recycled at the [OC Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#). The centers are free to County residents and are open five days per week, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays (except major holidays and rain events).

- [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center Information](#)
- [Anaheim Collection Center](#): 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#): 17121 Nichols Street
- [Irvine Collection Center](#): 6411 Oak Canyon
- [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#): 32250 Avenida La Pata

Donations

If your radios still work, consider donating them and other working electronics to your local thrift store or secondhand store.

SHARPS, NEEDLES & SYRINGES



OPTIONS

Sharps Disposal

California law prohibits disposal of home-generated sharps waste in the trash or recycling containers, and requires that all sharps waste be disposed of safely. You can find more information about sharps disposal at the [CalRecycle](#) website. Sharps users have several options available to them to meet the requirements of the law:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

[Orange County's four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) (HWCCs) accept sharps for disposal. Residents should place the sharps in a heavy-duty, puncture-resistant container with a tight fitting lid. Examples of appropriate containers are empty plastic bottles such as detergent, liquid fabric softener or bleach bottles. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides guidance on safe needle disposal [here](#).

City Programs

Some cities have programs for sharps disposal for their residents. Check with your [city's recycling coordinator](#) for programs specific to your city.

Mail-Back Programs

The California Department of Public Health has a list of mail-back programs [here](#).

SMOKE ALARMS AND DETECTORS



OPTIONS

For proper disposal of a smoke alarm or detector, please check the label on the device or research the type of alarm/detector you have. Not all smoke alarms/detectors have radioactive materials. If it does not contain radioactive materials per the product description, you can remove the battery and dispose of the alarm/detector in the trash.

Manufacturer

If your product does contain radioactive materials, the best and safest option is to first check with the product manufacturer to see if they offer a mail-back program. You may also check this website at www.curieservices.com for more recycling information, including a helpful [Frequently Asked Question](#) sheet.

Other Resources

The United States Postal Service also offers additional resources [here](#). Please note that some resources may require a fee for service.

If uncertain, you may contact the [OC Waste & Recycling](#) office at 714-834-4000 to speak to a materials regulation specialist.

SOIL AND DIRT



OPTIONS

Soil amounts less than five cubic yards can go to a landfill for repurposing. Larger amounts must be tested and may qualify for fee exemptions. Check [here](#) for more information.

STYROFOAM



OPTIONS

Styrofoam (polystyrene) is being recycled every day and access to recycling programs is increasing. However, your curbside recycle bin may not be the right place to recycle it. Check with your [City waste hauler](#) to find out the recommendation for your area.

Foam Recycling Programs

If you cannot place Styrofoam in the home recycle bin, look for a foam recycling center near you at www.foamfacts.com or through earth911.com

TIRES



OPTIONS

Tires should not be thrown in your curbside trash or recycle bins. Some tire shops or auto supply retailers will accept tires for recycling. Search for a location near you at [earth911.com](https://www.earth911.com)

For more information about tire management in California, visit [CalRecycle](https://www.calrecycle.com).

TREATED WOOD AND WOOD PALLET



OPTIONS

Disposal

If you cannot re-purpose treated wood around your home or through donation, it can be taken to our [Prima Deshecha Landfill. Frank R. Bowerman Landfill](#) accepts treated wood for commercial disposal only. Treated wood waste requires special handling due to chemicals or preservatives.

Check [here](#) for handling and pricing information.

UMBRELLAS



OPTIONS

Plastic umbrellas cannot be recycled. If they are in good condition, consider donating to local thrift stores and secondhand stores. You can remove the fabric of the umbrella and recycle the metal "skeleton" of the umbrella with scrap metal.

VCRs



OPTIONS

E-Waste Collection Sites

VCRs (video cassette recorders) are considered e-waste and can be disposed of at the OC [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#). Remove all data before disposal if they are personal VCRs. Centers are open five days per week, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (except major holidays and rain events).

- [Anaheim Collection Center](#): 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#): 17121 Nichols Street
- [Irvine Collection Center](#): 6411 Oak Canyon
- [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#): 32250 Avenida La Pata

Donation

VCRs in working condition can be donated to local secondhand or thrift stores such as [Goodwill OC](#) and [The Salvation Army](#).

VIDEO GAME CONSOLES & ACCESSORIES



OPTIONS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Video game consoles and accessories are considered e-waste and can be recycled at the OC [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#). Centers are open five days per week, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (except major holidays and rain events).

- [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center Information](#)
- [Anaheim Collection Center](#): 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#): 17121 Nichols Street
- [Irvine Collection Center](#): 6411 Oak Canyon
- [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#): 32250 Avenida La Pata

TIP:

- Sell old video game consoles and accessories. Most video game stores have buy back programs for cash, especially old or hard-to-find components
- Take video game components to your local pawn shop
- Find a group or organization that may take donated items in working condition, including kids programs, charities and thrift stores

VINYL RECORDS



OPTIONS

If necessary, vinyl records can be placed in your trash bin in order to be disposed of. Before tossing vinyl records, any of the following options should be considered:

Sell

If records are in good condition, you may be able to sell them through vinyl record stores or online apps.

Donation

You can donate old records to thrift stores or secondhand stores like [Goodwill OC](#), [The Salvation Army](#) or other charitable organizations. Some libraries also accept old vinyl records and allow guests to check them out.

Repurpose

You can create unique DIY [craft projects](#) using old vinyl records.

X-RAYS



OPTIONS

X-rays are coated with silver which is a heavy metal that is recoverable. [Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers](#) accept X-Rays, as long as they are not from a commercial business. Centers are open to County residents Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except major holidays and rain events).

Collection Center Locations:

- [Anaheim Collection Center](#): 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- [Huntington Beach Collection Center](#): 17121 Nichols Street
- [Irvine Collection Center](#): 6411 Oak Canyon
- [San Juan Capistrano Collection Center](#): 32250 Avenida La Pata

TIPS:

- Contact your local hospital to see if you can return your old x-rays
- Find a company who you will purchase your x-rays; the silver found in them is recoverable

YARD AND GARDEN WASTE



OPTIONS

Home Recycle Bin

The best way to recycle yard and garden waste is to place it in your green waste bin. Curbside green waste can then be processed as compost. Place twigs, flowers, weeds, roots, leaves, grass, plants, and **uncoated/untreated** wood chips in your green bin.

Check with your **city waste hauler** if they accept palm fronds in the green waste bin as it may vary from city to city.

TIPS:

- Begin composting at home or through community composting projects
- DO NOT place pet waste into your green bin. Instead, put it in your trash bin.
- Be sure green waste that is placed in your green bin DOES NOT contain glass, metal, aluminum, or painted wood

Resources:

- Composting in Orange County:
<http://www.oclandfills.com/recycling/compost/composting>
- Treated wood disposal:
<http://www.oclandfills.com/about/faq/wood>

ZIPLOC BAGS



OPTIONS

Most grocery stores offer plastic bag recycling. If the Ziploc or sandwich bag you're looking to recycle is labeled #2 or #4, place it in the plastic bag recycle bin, which is typically located at the front of stores near checkout lines. Be sure your bags are clean and dry before placing them into a bin.

Recycling Locations

You can find a recycling facility for plastic bags and other plastic films, packaging. For a location and types of recycling material, check the locator at [Recyclenation.com](https://www.Recyclenation.com) or [earth911.com](https://www.earth911.com)

TIPS:

- Store small objects using your old Ziploc bags
- Previously used bags can be re-purposed as cold packs by placing a sponge in them and storing them in your freezer
- Keep your electronic devices dry by placing them in an old Ziploc bag when near liquids

ZIPPERS



OPTIONS

Zippers can be repurposed into many creative crafts or do-it-yourself projects. If not you, pass them along to a crafty friend.

- [33 Cool DIY Projects You Can Make With A Zipper](#)
- [14 Of The Best Zipper Crafts!](#)
- [Cool Zipper Crafts](#)

OC Recycle Guide

