

## Residential Services Guide

### RENEW YOUR EFFORTS FOR REUSABLES!

Switching to reusable options instead of single-use plastic bags and coffee cups helps Oakland achieve its goals of reducing the amount of trash going to the landfill.

**Plastic bags** cannot be recycled in CWS's recycling carts. Additionally, it is challenging to find locations to take them for recycling. Bringing a reusable bag to the store prevents your need for disposable bags. Reusable bags are also less likely to rip and are often more comfortable to carry.

**Single-use coffee cups** are not recyclable, they go into the landfill which can take years to decompose or they end up as litter in our streets. Most of these cups are made from paper but are lined with plastic, making them unacceptable for recycling or composting.



#### Benefits of Reusable Bags and Cups:

- **Slows Down Climate Change:** Reduces the production and disposal of plastic, cutting down greenhouse gas emissions and reduces the amount going into the landfills.
- **Saves Money:** County law requires stores to charge \$0.10 per disposable bag provided to customers and many coffee shops offer discounts to customers who bring their own mug.

### PAPER RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET

Not all paper belongs in the recycle or compost cart. Below are simple guidelines to know the difference.



#### Paper with a plastic or shiny coating:

This type of mixed material belongs in the trash. The plastic lining or coating makes it non-recyclable and non-compostable. Best to have reusable cups and plates to reduce trash going to the landfill.



#### Food-soiled or wet uncoated paper:

Napkins, paper towels, greasy pizza boxes and coffee filters have no plastic lining and belong in the compost cart. They will break down with food scraps and plant debris to come back as compost for gardens. When fibers are wet or soiled with food, it can contaminate recycling, and releases methane gas when decomposing in a landfill.



#### Dry uncoated paper products:

Newspaper and cardboard that have not come into contact with food or liquid belong in the recycle cart. If thrown in trash it can cause increases methane gas in landfills when decomposing.

To learn more visit [OaklandRecycles.com](https://OaklandRecycles.com).

## Extra Trash? You Got It In the Bag!

The amount of waste generated between Thanksgiving and New Year's increases by 25%. Plan ahead to ensure you have space to put your trash.



Extra waste tag

Purchase an extra waste tag for \$12.41 to place on a 32 gallon bag and set out on your trash service day.

Call WMAC at 510-613-8710 to order.



Schedule Bulky Junk Service

Schedule a curbside pickup or drop off appointment

Call 1-888-WM-BULKY (1-888-962-8559) or visit [OaklandRecycles.com/Bulky](https://OaklandRecycles.com/Bulky) to schedule an appointment or learn more.



Break Down Cardboard

Save space and avoid overfilling the recycle cart by breaking down cardboard to fit inside, or place bundled next to your recycle cart.

## What should you do with your unwanted household medication and sharps?

**Old medication and used sharps NEVER belong in your curbside carts.**

There are numerous free and convenient options to manage medications and sharps. Visit the MED-Project Product Stewardship Program website at [www.med-project.org](https://www.med-project.org) to learn how to safely dispose sharps and medications with drop off and mail back options.

It is important to safely get rid of expired and unwanted prescription and over the counter medications to help prevent misuse by older adults, keep medication away from young people, prevent theft of medication and finally prevent medication exposure in the waterways.

Improperly discarded sharps, such as needles, syringes, and lancets, can cause serious injuries to sanitation workers, healthcare personnel, and the public. Accidental needle sticks can lead to painful wounds and infections.



Visit **resource.stopwaste.org** for an online guide for reuse, repair, recycling, and safe disposal.

Visit [OaklandRecycles.com/single-family-homes](https://OaklandRecycles.com/single-family-homes) for more information about your services.

**Trash, Compost & Bulky Service,  
Low-income, Disabled, Senior Discount**



Waste Management  
of Alameda County, Inc  
510-613-8710

**Recycle, Used Motor Oil, Battery  
Collection Service**

California Waste Solutions  
510-OAKLAND (625-5263)

