



# San Francisco Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance

**Everyone in San Francisco is required to keep their recyclables, compostables, and trash separate.**

The City and your refuse service provider (typically Recology) offer a variety of free services and assistance including kitchen composting pails, consultations, bin labels, signs, commercial building toolkits, educational materials, multi-lingual trainings, and more.

**For help setting up permitted collection service and other assistance, call:  
Recology Sunset Scavenger (415) 330-1300 or Recology Golden Gate (415) 626-4000.**

## Businesses

Property owners/managers, including of apartments, condos, TICs, food establishments, and events are required to provide color-coded, labeled bins in convenient locations: blue for recycling, green for composting, and black for trash. Education must also be provided to tenants, employees, contractors, and janitors on what goes in each bin.

Food vendors that provide disposable food service ware or to-go containers must provide blue, green, and black bins for use by customers and visitors. These must be placed in the establishment, near a main exit.

## Residential Property Owners

Property owners may be able to lower their refuse bill by recycling and composting more, and ordering a smaller black trash bin or decreasing frequency of collection.

Recology provides apartment starter kits and pails for kitchen food scrap collection. Food scraps can also be placed in paper milk cartons, paper bags, or wrapped in paper before being placed in green bins.

## Renters

Ask property managers to sign up for composting, recycling, and trash service. Renters can report unresponsive managers through the anonymous notification form at [SFEnvironment.org/mandatory](https://SFEnvironment.org/mandatory).

## Enforcement

Residents and businesses are required to subscribe for adequate recycling, composting, and trash service and use them properly. The Department of the Environment strives to educate and assist. Fines may be given in cases of non-compliance.

## Recycling Theft

It is illegal for a third party to mix or take materials out of the recycling bin provided by your collector. Please report recycling theft at [RecologySF.com](https://RecologySF.com) or by calling (415) 330-1300.



**SF Environment**  
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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

**SFEnvironment.org/mandatory**  
**(415) 355-3700**