



PUBLIC
WORKS

Reduce Reuse Rethink

Burbank Recycle
Center Newsletter

The Gift of Giving Back

According to the EPA, household waste increases by 25% during the holiday season, often made up of packaging, food, and unwanted gifts that end up in landfills. While giving gifts is a cherished tradition, it doesn't have to harm the environment. Instead of buying new products, consider giving experiences, homemade food, or pre-owned items. Here are some ideas for waste-free holiday gifting.

For nature lovers, consider an annual California State Park pass, granting access to up to 134 state parks. Another idea is a membership to the AllTrails app, a fantastic guide to local hiking trails, like the Verdugo Crest Trail. For museum enthusiasts, Los Angeles offers the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Huntington, where visitors can explore botanical gardens, galleries, and enjoy tea at the Rose Garden Tea Room. The Autry Museum of the American West is also close by, with tickets for just \$18 and memberships starting at \$85. Sports lovers might enjoy a gym membership at the Burbank Fitness Club or Burbank YMCA, a round of golf at DeBell Golf Club, Dodgers tickets, or a gift card to Play It Again Sports in Pasadena. Supporting local businesses and the environment is also easy with



Credit: ArtistGNDphotography | E+ | Getty Images

unique finds from the Iliad Bookshop or vintage shops on Magnolia Blvd.

Homemade food gifts can double as a family activity and show thoughtfulness through something handmade. Here are some sweet treats to try: cookies, fudge, candied nuts, granola, jam, apple cinnamon bread, peanut brittle, peppermint bark, and caramel popcorn. On the savory side, try garlic butter, beer bread, harissa sauce, chili oil, pickles, tamales, kimchi, or challah rolls. Pair these treats with a growler of beer from a local brewer, like Trustworthy Brewing Co., for an extra festive touch.

These thoughtful gifts can bring joy to recipients while helping Burbank work towards waste reduction goals.

Dispose of Holiday Lights Safely

Holiday lights and any other items with electrical components, such as batteries or plugs, are considered e-waste and should not be placed in regular waste containers. Even if certain string lights aren't hazardous, they still require special disposal. Drop off lights and other holiday electrical décor at the Burbank Recycle Center for proper recycling. The HHW Drop Off Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 500 S. Flower Street in Burbank.

Turkey Leftovers: Reuse and Recycle the Fry Oil

Turkey frying offers a unique twist on the traditional holiday feast. Although this method requires a lot of expensive oil, it doesn't have to go to waste after just one use. Once cooled, used fryer oil can be filtered, properly stored, and reused several times throughout the holidays, depending on its condition.



Credit: tShortell | E+ | Getty Images

When the oil eventually needs to be disposed of, avoid pouring it down the kitchen sink or drains, as this can clog plumbing and sewer pipes. Large amounts of cooking oil can also cause issues in trash collection vehicles. The best option is for residents to drop off used cooking oil at a local household hazardous waste collection site for recycling.

The Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Collection Center is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 11025 Randall Street in Sun Valley. Place cooled oil in a sealed container, label it clearly as 'COOKING OIL,' and transport it in the trunk only, with a limit of 15 gallons. Cooking oil from businesses will not be accepted.



Credit: Skatzenberger | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb for three weeks beginning Monday, January 6, through Friday, January 31, 2025. Be sure to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and garlands, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb or next to the dumpsters in your complex. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection. No flocked trees will be accepted for recycling.

Residents may also drop off Christmas trees at Verdugo, Ralph Foy, or McCambridge Parks beginning Monday, December 23.

If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you are discarding an artificial tree or wreath or a flocked tree, please place it into the trash cart or dumpster. Artificial trees, wreaths, and flocked trees are not recyclable.

Postal Patron

Burbank Recycle Center
500 South Flower St.
Burbank, CA 91502

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 40
GARDENA, CA
ECRWSS

FALL/WINTER 2024

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING LAWS

Burbank's New Waste Reduction Ordinance

Plastic has become a staple in our everyday lives, found in everything from computers and medical devices to homes and clothing. While plastic is here to stay, steps are being taken at both the state and city levels to reduce single-use plastic—and these changes are necessary. California's regulations address critical issues, including the depletion of natural resources, litter in streets and waterways, and the harmful effects of PFAS chemicals. For example:

- **SB 54** establishes standards for recyclability and compostability and mandates producer responsibility.
- **AB 1200** bans foodware containing PFAS.
- **AB 1276** requires that single-use accessories like condiment packets, straws, and utensils are only provided to customers upon request.

To align with these regulations and maintain its commitment to environmental leadership, Burbank passed its own waste reduction ordinance with the following key provisions:



Effective Now

- A ban on selling or distributing polystyrene (Styrofoam™) foodware.
- Single-use foodware accessories are provided only upon customer request.

Effective January 1, 2026

- All single-use food serviceware must be compostable or recyclable and free of added PFAS.
- Dine-in orders must be served on reusable food serviceware. Waivers will be available for businesses facing undue hardship due to limited space, financial constraints, or lack of suitable products.

Separating Trash with Senate Bill 1383

There's an often-overlooked contributor to emissions, and it starts right on our dinner plates and in our backyards. When organic waste, like yard trimmings and food scraps, is thrown in the trash bin and ends up in landfills, it decomposes and emits methane—a potent greenhouse gas that accelerates global warming. In fact, according to the EPA, methane emissions from municipal landfills in 2022 were comparable to the emissions from 24 million gasoline-powered vehicles driven for one year. This is why California passed Senate Bill (SB) 1383, also known as the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy Act. Under SB 1383, along with Burbank's Municipal Code Title 4, Chapter 2, all businesses and single- and multi-family dwellings are required to have separate bins for trash, recycling, and organic waste through an authorized city waste hauler.

Burbank residents are required not only to maintain service for these three waste types but also to use and correctly sort into each container. For sorting assistance, please reach out to zerowaste@burbankca.gov.

Requirements for Businesses and Multi-Family Properties of Five Units or More:

- **Provide Separate Waste Bins** — Businesses and multi-family dwellings must have three distinct bins for trash, recycling, and organics. For example, when dining in at a casual restaurant, you should see separate bins to properly sort your waste.
- **Prevent Contamination with Clear Signage** — To reduce confusion, businesses and multi-family properties must display clear signage on bins, helping everyone identify where each type of waste belongs.
- **Annual Education on Sorting** — Property managers, employers, and business owners must provide yearly education on proper sorting for employees, tenants, contractors, and customers, checking periodically to ensure bins contain the correct materials.
- **Educate New Tenants** — Property managers and owners of multi-family properties with five or more units must inform new tenants about SB 1383 requirements within 14 days of move-in, ensuring they understand the process for separating trash, recycling, and organics.

Polystyrene and Its Forms

You may be purchasing polystyrene products without realizing it. Most people recognize Styrofoam™ as the lightweight, foamy material that easily breaks into small pieces and contributes to marine litter, taking thousands of years to decompose. However, polystyrene comes in other forms too. It can also appear as clear or colored rigid plastic.

Any plastic marked with a #6 or PS symbol inside the recycling arrows is polystyrene—and is banned in Burbank and many other cities. This includes items like red party cups, many sushi and clamshell containers, and coffee cup lids. Plastic #6 cannot be recycled and ultimately ends up in landfills.

If you're a restaurant, ensure that your plastic containers are labeled #1, #2, or #5, as these types are recyclable.

Black (Trash)



Blue (Recycling)



Green (Organics)



Reducing Waste with AB 1276

When ordering food or drinks to go, remember to request only the single-use accessories you need—like utensils and straws. In January 2022, California law AB 1276 went into effect, requiring all retail food facilities and food delivery platforms to provide single-use foodware accessories and condiments only upon request. This law aims to prevent the unnecessary waste of foodware items that often end up unused in the trash.

The law covers single-use utensils, straws, chopsticks, stirrers, and condiment cups and packets, with a few key guidelines:

1. **Request-Only:** Single-use foodware accessories and condiments are provided only if requested by the customer. Exceptions include drive-throughs and airports, where staff may ask if customers need these items.
2. **No Bundled Items:** Foodware items cannot be bundled together.

For example, if a customer only wants a fork, they should not receive a packet containing multiple accessories, which just leads to more waste.

3. **Third-Party Delivery:** For food facilities using delivery platforms, only single-use items and condiments requested during online ordering can be provided.

Food establishments should remind staff of the request-only policy and post signage informing customers to ask for any items they need. Self-service stations are permitted as long as items are offered individually and not bundled. For online orders, businesses should ensure customers can select the accessories they want.

As a customer, remember that this isn't about removing convenience but rather about following the law and helping reduce unnecessary waste in California's landfills.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING LAWS

'Where It Goes' Clarifies Recycling

Disposal can be confusing with the wide range of items, complex packaging, and seemingly conflicting rules. This confusion often leads to "wishcycling"—when residents and businesses place incorrect items in the recycling container, hoping they're recyclable without knowing for sure.

What's the harm in wishcycling? Many don't realize that putting non-recyclable items in the recycling stream increases costs for recycling facilities, as these items must be sorted out and disposed of. In some cases, hazardous items

can even pose risks to recycling workers and damage sorting equipment. Non-recyclable items placed in the blue bin end up taking a detour before heading to the landfill.

When in doubt, find out! The Burbank Recycle Center's "Where it Goes" guide takes the guesswork out of recycling. Available at Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov, this convenient, easy-to-use tool provides information on over 400 items and offers helpful disposal tips, so you can be confident about what goes where.

Wine Bottle Redemption!

Recycling pays off more than ever now. Remember that as of January 1, 2024, California has expanded the California Redemption Value (CRV) program to include wine, distilled spirits, and juice bottles. This means you can enjoy your favorite drinks, reduce pollution, and earn a little extra cash by recycling.

For containers under 24 ounces, the CRV rate is 5¢, and for containers over 24 ounces, the rate is 10¢. Recycle centers also now accept boxed wine, with a new CRV rate of 25¢ for wine and distilled spirits, as well as wine and distilled spirit coolers in various containers, including bag-in-box, multi-layer

pouches, paperboard cartons, and plastic pouches (#1-7), regardless of size.

CalRecycle estimates that this expansion will add about 1.1 billion additional wine and spirits containers to the program each year, helping to keep more waste out of landfills.

Residents may redeem wine containers, bottles, and cans at the Burbank Recycle Center located at 500 S. Flower Street in Burbank. This service is operated by our facility partner, Burrtec Industries, and is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Take the Where It Goes Challenge

Where do I dispose of these common holiday items?



Helium Tank



Holiday Lights



Wrapping Paper



Toys



Shipping Envelopes



Ribbons and Bows



Bubble Wrap

Where it GOES

Answers can be found at: Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov

OUR BURBANK 311

DOWNLOAD THE OUR BURBANK 311 MOBILE APP!

Use the Our Burbank 311 App to request:

- bulky item pickup
- street repairs
- and so much more!

Download the App for FREE from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Report Violations on the 311 App

Burbank residents can easily request services and report violations through the "Our Burbank 311" mobile app. The app alerts various city departments, including the Recycle Center, allowing anyone to report violations of Burbank ordinances related to SB 1383 or the Waste Reduction Ordinance. Reports can also be made anonymously.

For Multi-Family Units of Five or More

Use the 311 mobile app or website to report if a property:

- Lacks recycling or organics service.
- Does not provide adequate educational materials or signage.
- Fails to monitor the proper separation of organics, recycling, and trash.

For Businesses

You can report any business that:

- Distributes or sells polystyrene.
- Does not provide public receptacles for sorting organics, trash, and recycling in restaurants where customers bus their own tables.
- Automatically provides accessories or condiment packets without customer request or serves bundled foodware accessories.
- Starting January 1, 2026, serves dine-in customers with single-use foodware or distributes to-go foodware that is not compostable or recyclable.

Your reports help us work toward our goal of becoming a waste-less city!



When it rains, stormwater washes bacteria, trash, and other pollutants into our rivers, lakes, and ocean, harming people and aquatic life. The Safe Clean Water Program helps keep pollution out of our water by funding stormwater capture projects and supporting essential municipal programs for pollution prevention. Learn more on how our city and watershed will keep pollution out of our waterways here: safecleanwaterla.org/about.

If you would like to engage in the planning and implementation of City activities funded by the Safe Clean Water Program, please contact Public Works at [wastewater@](mailto:wastewater@burbankca.gov)

burbankca.gov or (818) 238-3915. #SafeCleanWater

Additional Tips for Reducing Stormwater Runoff:

- Use a broom to clean up yard trimmings or leave grass clippings on the lawn to grasscycle.
- Prepare for rainy weather.
 - Clean gutters and ensure they divert rainwater to landscaped areas.
 - Set up a rain barrel or water catchment system.
 - Use kitty litter to clean automotive leaks from driveways and, if fully absorbed, dispose of it in your garbage container. If the kitty litter is soaking, oozing or otherwise expressing oil, it should be disposed of at a household hazardous waste facility. Following these practices can help maintain healthy landscapes while protecting our waterways.

The Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Collection Center is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 11025 Randall Street in Sun Valley.

Learn to Compost Workshop

Homemade compost is a valuable resource for nourishing your yard. When you practice smart gardening, you conserve water, improve your home landscape, recycle organic waste, and help the environment. These simple practices do not take much time and help to foster a healthy lawn and garden.

Learn to compost by attending a free Introduction to Composting class on Saturday, January 18. Learn more about this opportunity and other upcoming Smart

Gardening program classes for gardening and water at cleanla.lacounty.gov/smartgardening. They even have helpful videos and tips available.

Those who attended the compost workshop will be able to order a low-cost backyard composting bin for \$40.



Producing your own compost is a low-footprint soil conditioner and aerator that helps retain water and nutrients.

Join LA County's Smart Gardening Introduction to Composting class on Saturday, January 18, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Burbank Community Garden, located at Chandler Parkway and Pass Ave. Street parking is available.



Mark Your Calendar

Burbank Certified Farmers Market

The Burbank Farmer's Market is adding a new feature: a food scrap drop-off site! LA Compost will be there collecting fruit and vegetable food scraps. Come by to drop off your food scrap waste and learn about composting!

- When: Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Where: Olive and Glenoaks in Downtown Burbank

Sustainable Burbank Commission Presents "Plastic Wars"

Join a screening of the documentary *Plastic Wars*, followed by a panel discussion as part of the "Go Green" event series.

- When: Tuesday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m.
- Where: Buena Vista Library
- Registration: Link coming soon at burbankca.gov/web/public-works/events

Curb Your Recycling — Earth Day

Clear up common recycling questions and learn how the recycling process really works at this Earth Day event.

- When: Wednesday, April 16, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- Where: Burbank Recycle Center
- Registration: Link coming soon at burbankca.gov/web/public-works/events

National Drug Take Back Event

Safely dispose of unused medications at this bi-annual collection event hosted by the Burbank Police Department.

- When: Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Where: Burbank Police Department
- Learn More: dea.gov/takebackday



Warriors, Come Out to Play

The Burbank Recycle Center's popular disposal education program, Waste Warriors, will welcome its 10th cohort in 2025. Waste Warriors is a free, 8-course training program for residents, offering an in-depth look at waste management and ways to reduce waste. The program features guest speakers, facility tours, engaging

content, and the chance to connect with fellow residents who care about the same issues.

Help us grow the Waste Warriors alumni community—join the few, the proud, the Waste Warriors! Registration is now open at BurbankRecycle.org, with the first class starting on Saturday, January 11. Space is limited.

Outdoor Watering is now 1 DAY/WEEK

From November 1st to March 31st, outdoor watering in Burbank is allowed:

Saturdays

Before 9 am or after 6 pm

15 minutes per irrigation station

STAGE III Watering Schedule

| November - March | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| X | X | X | X | X | X | Water |



Attended hand watering is allowed any day before 9 am or after 6 pm.



No outdoor evaporative cooling devices, such as misters.



Low flow irrigation is allowed on watering days, they are exempt from the 15-minute rule.



Pools must be covered to decrease water evaporation. Visit bit.ly/pool-cover-credit for bill credit information.



Public Works Customer Service

Public Works Field Services:
818-238-3800

Distribution and collection of trash, organics and recycling bins and carts

Bulky Item Pickup:
818-238-3800

To request pickup of oversized furniture and appliances only



Facebook.com/BurbankRecycle

Burbank Recycle Center

Recycling drop-off, electronics collection, bottle and can drop-off, composting information

500 South Flower Street, 91502
818-238-3900



For information on disposal:
BurbankRecycle.org
Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov



Instagram.com/BurbankRecycle