

RESIDENTIAL FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION

Athens Services is partnering with your city to implement food scrap collection for single-family home residents and multifamily complexes. Per Senate Bill 1383, single-family home residents and multifamily complexes across California are required to place into their green waste container ALL of their landscaping waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper (100% fiber-based).

WHAT'S CHANGING? You are able to use your green organics container for the collection of landscaping waste; **food scraps**; and **100% fiber-based, food-soiled paper**.

DID YOU SAY FOOD SCRAPS? Yes, Athens accepts all types of food scraps. Our American Organics compost facility converts organics waste into nutrient-rich soil amendment. The resulting compost is used by commercial farmers, city projects, garden shops, landscapers, and residents.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? To collect your kitchen food scraps, you can choose to use a portable, reusable pail-like container with a tight fitting lid. It could be plastic, metal, or ceramic. Pail options can be purchased or consider reusing a coffee canister, large yogurt or margarine tub, or juice pitcher. Storage ideas can include the kitchen counter, under the sink, in the freezer, or wherever you feel is best.

WHY ORGANICS RECYCLING? Landfills are the third largest source of methane in California. Organics waste emits 20% of the state's methane. By diverting organics from the landfill, you are part of the solution in helping to protect the environment and future generations.

ARE BAGS ACCEPTED? Liners are optional. Plastic and bioplastic "compostable" bags are accepted in the organics container, but must be CLEAR or translucent-green, and bag contents must be visible. Acceptable organics will be processed, but the bags will not be recycled or composted.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION? Athens is here to support the community with this new program and will provide resources and training to help you get started. If you have any questions about the new organics collection program, please contact the Athens Customer Care Center at (888) 336-6100 or visit AthensServices.com/Food.



Scan for more resources

PARTICIPATING IS EASY AS 1-2-3



1. FILL

Fill your pail with food scraps and acceptable items. (Liners are optional. Consider newspaper or a paper bag. Plastic bags must be clear.)

2. EMPTY

Empty pail contents into your green organics container.



3. RINSE & REPEAT

Rinse out pail with soap and water. Fill again. Sprinkle lightly with baking soda to absorb odors.

Athens Tip: Store meat and dairy scraps in a container in your freezer and place in the green organics container on collection day.

ACCEPTABLE ORGANICS WASTE

GREEN WASTE

- Flower & hedge trimmings
- Grass clippings
- Leaves & branches
- Lumber, scrap wood, & plywood (not painted or treated)
- Weeds

FOOD SCRAPS

- Bread, rice, & pasta
- Cheese & dairy
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Fruits & vegetables
- Flowers & herbs
- Meat, bones, & poultry
- Seafood & soft shells (lobster, crab, & shrimp)
- Pet food (non-medicated)

FOOD-SOILED PAPER*

- Food-stained paper
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper napkins & kitchen towels
- Pizza boxes
- Plates
- To-go boxes (no coating)
- Wooden & fiber-based utensils

DO NOT INCLUDE

- All plastics
- Cacti, succulents, & yucca
- Compostable plastics (bioplastics)
- Coffee cups & pods
- Fats, oils, & grease
- Food stickers (please remove)
- Gloves
- Hard shells (clams, mussels, & oysters)
- Medication
- Palm fronds
- Paper napkins & towels with cleaning chemicals
- Parchment & wax paper
- Pet waste
- Rocks & soil
- Rubber bands & twist ties
- Tea bags
- Textiles
- Tissues & wet wipes

*Must be 100% fiber-based. NO materials with bio-plastic, wax, or petroleum-based plastic coating, liner or laminate.