



Dear Rethinker Reader,  
From our family to yours, have a  
happy and healthy holiday season  
filled with loved ones and joy.  
~The RethinkWaste Family

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks

RethinkWaste Administrative Offices  
610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | San Carlos, CA 94070

The Rethinker newsletter is dedicated to educating residents and businesses regarding waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. With your help, we can meet our goal of diverting waste from the landfill and maintain healthy, livable communities.



## TIPS FOR A GREEN & SUSTAINABLE

# Holiday Meal

### FACT:

According to a 2018/2019 grand jury report, 71% of all waste that is landfilled in San Mateo County is organic material such as food scraps, paper, and yard trimmings. And when it comes to the holiday seasons between Thanksgiving and New Year's, Americans throw out 25% more!

This is tough news to swallow, but you can help do your part by having a green, sustainable holiday season.

The holiday season is once again upon us; a time for friends, family, food—and food leftovers! Here are some tips to help you along the way to minimize food waste and help make a positive environmental impact.

1. **Shop with a plan.** Know how many people you're expecting, think about portion sizes and plan accordingly.
2. **Coordinate recipes with friends and family** so you don't end up with three green bean casseroles. Setting up a shared online document is a great way to simultaneously plan the meal with friends and family.
3. **Invite guests to bring reusable containers** to take home leftovers.
4. **Place your compost kitchen pail next to your garbage with a sign labeled "Food Scraps"** so your guests know exactly what to do with their food scraps and food-soiled paper. Don't have a kitchen pail yet? Order one today at: **RethinkCompost.org/order.**
5. Due to possible increased volume during your holiday meal, **consider using a bigger container with double-bagged paper or BPI-certified bags** inside your container to minimize trips out to your green compost cart.
6. Did your pie come in a plain cardboard box? Uncoated or **wax-coated cardboard is compostable**—especially food-soiled or greasy boxes.

Want more compost tips and information? Visit [RethinkCompost.org](https://RethinkCompost.org) today.



## Practice Battery Safety This Holiday!

Batteries are helpful in getting our products running, but they need to be properly disposed of when they are no longer usable.

Batteries can be recycled, but **should NEVER be put in any cart** because they can be highly flammable and pose potential dangers to our facility and workers. Remember to remove batteries before donating old toys, or tossing broken toys in the trash!

Residents in single-family homes can place used batteries inside any clear zip-top bag and seal. Place sealed bag on **top of the lid of your black garbage cart** on your regular collection day.

Learn more at: [RethinkWaste.org/batteries](https://RethinkWaste.org/batteries)



# Holiday Schedule 2019

DECEMBER MONDAY <b>23</b> Regular Service	DECEMBER TUESDAY <b>24</b> Regular Service	DECEMBER WEDNESDAY <b>25</b> No Service	DECEMBER THURSDAY <b>26</b> Service for Wednesday Customers	DECEMBER FRIDAY <b>27</b> Service for Thursday Customers	DECEMBER SATURDAY <b>28</b> Service for Friday Customers
DECEMBER MONDAY <b>30</b>	DECEMBER TUESDAY <b>31</b>	JANUARY WEDNESDAY <b>1</b>	JANUARY THURSDAY <b>2</b>	JANUARY FRIDAY <b>3</b>	JANUARY SATURDAY <b>4</b>

There will be NO Recycle, Compost, and Garbage collection services Christmas day on **Wednesday, December 25, 2019** and New Years Day on **Wednesday, January 1, 2020**.

**If your regular collection day falls on or after the holiday, your service will be DELAYED BY ONE DAY. Regular collection service schedule will resume the week of January 6, 2020.**

## Holiday Tree Collection: December 26 - January 31

Recology San Mateo County will collect holiday trees curbside for composting between December 26th and January 31st on your regular compost collection day. Trees set out on a non-collection day will be picked up on the next regular collection day. Please note that trees may be collected by a vehicle other than your regular compost collection vehicle.

For proper Tree Collection please follow these easy steps:

- Remove all decorations and tree stands (flocked trees are accepted).
- Place tree next to your green Compost Cart (or place inside with trunk sticking out).
- Trees larger than 8 ft will need to be cut in half in order to be collected. If you have an oversized tree, please contact Recology for a special collection at no charge.

After January 31st, please cut the tree to fit inside your Compost Cart.



OUR CONTRACTING PARTNERS:



### PROGRAM INFORMATION:

RethinkWaste is your regional public agency\* that owns the 16-acre Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos and manages our two major contractors: Recology & South Bay Recycling.  
**RethinkWaste | (650) 802-3500 | [rethinker@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org) | [Rethinkwaste.org](https://Rethinkwaste.org)**

For questions about your garbage bill or to schedule services:  
**Recology San Mateo County | 225 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | (650) 595-3900**  
**[carts@recology.com](mailto:carts@recology.com) | [Recology.com](https://Recology.com)**

For questions about the Shoreway Environmental Center including hours of operation, materials accepted, rates, etc.:  
**South Bay Recycling | 333 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | (650) 802-8355 | [SBRecycling.net](https://SBRecycling.net)**

### \*RethinkWaste Member Agencies:

- Atherton
- Belmont
- Burlingame
- East Palo Alto
- Foster City
- Hillsborough
- Menlo Park
- Redwood City
- San Carlos
- San Mateo
- County of San Mateo
- West Bay Sanitary Dist.

Sign up to receive the Rethinker newsletter electronically! **Visit [RethinkWaste.org](https://RethinkWaste.org)**  
 Follow us on social media to get the latest eco-tips and information.

