

Waste Sorting Kit FAQ

Q: What is a Waste Sorting Kit?

A: The waste sorting kit is a convenient packet to help picnickers separate their waste. The kit includes a 32 gallon translucent blue bag for recycle, a 32 gallon translucent green compostable bag for compost, and a 16 gallon clear bag for landfill, along with a sorting guide and instructions.



Q: Why do we need a Waste Sorting Kit?

A: The waste sorting kit was created as part of a pilot project being conducted at Rinconada Park. Forty-four individual waste cans were removed and replaced by four waste stations. The kits are intended to help picnickers appropriately sort their waste and transport it to one of the four waste stations.

The goal of the pilot is to achieve compliance with Palo Alto Municipal Code (PAMC) Chapter 5.20; decrease contamination in the recycle, compost, and landfill containers; and help increase awareness of Zero Waste.

Q: Where can I get a Waste Sorting Kit?

A: The waste sorting kit is only available to picnickers at Rinconada Park. Kits will be distributed on Saturdays at the park from July through mid-September. They will also be available at any of the Community Centers (Lucie Stern, Mitchell Park, or Cubberley) while supplies last.

For more information, contact Zero Waste Palo Alto
zerowaste@cityofpaloalto.org
650-496-5910



Zero Waste Checklist for Facility Rentals



The City of Palo Alto requires meetings and events to practice **waste reduction**, **reuse**, **recycling** and **composting**. Violators may be denied to host future events in the city. Use this checklist to help guide your meetings and events.

EVENT PLANNING - Avoid landfill items. Reduce and reuse then recycle, and compost.

REDUCE/REUSE are BEST

Reduce:

- Get a headcount to minimize food waste and save money
- Serve foods that do not need utensils (e.g. kabobs)
- Provide drinks and condiments (sugars, ketchup, salad dressings, etc.) in bulk

Reuse:

- Bring your own reusable and washable dishes, cups, and silverware
 - Zero Waste Party Packs are available for you to borrow for free. Learn more at www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwparty
- Choose reusable decorations
 - Use past decorations
 - Borrow from a friend
 - Buy from the thrift store
- CATERING - Choose a caterer who will supply reusable dishes and napkins
 - Ask the caterer to provide reusables, or have food presented on your own trays or dishes
 - Decline single use disposables



COMPOST/ RECYCLE are GOOD – If it is necessary, choose compostables or recyclables.

Compostable:

- BPI certified compostable plastics (www.bpiworld.org) and single use fiber utensils (bamboo)

Recyclable:

- Aluminum foil, plastic cups (not foam plastic), and rigid plastic container (non-compostable)

AVOID LANDFILL - Use packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

- Plastic utensils (forks, knives, spoons, and straws) that are not compostable belong in the landfill
- NOT ALLOWED: Vendors are NOT allowed to provide foam plastic containers and single use bags
- Avoid balloons and other single use decorations

WASTE STATIONS – Check in with your facility to see if they offer waste stations.

- Each waste station is required to have a green, blue, and black container, placed together, with proper signage
 - Locations of the stations should be convenient and visible
 - Standalone containers are NOT permitted



ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Let attendees know about your zero waste efforts in advance and encourage them to participate
- Ensure that the City of Palo Alto’s Zero Waste requirements are followed by everyone

TIPS FOR OUTREACH MATERIAL:

- Handouts: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
 - Reduce: Provide any handouts online
 - Reuse: Reuse existing signs and banners (leave out the date when printing out new signs, and reuse)
 - ◇ Remember to print signs and banners on recyclable content
 - Recycle: Handouts - Print on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, both sides, with a soy-based ink
- Giveaways: Purchase useful and reusable giveaways, and avoid the packaging