

ZERØWASTEMARIN

Guide to Waste Reduction & Sorting at Your Event

A quick reference guide for how to sort waste correctly at events in Marin!

Ways to Reduce Waste Before Your Event

Choose Reusables!

Single-use paper cups, plastic utensils, and other common party items end up in landfill after the party. Where possible, choose to serve on reusable items to avoid creating waste!



Prevent Food Waste

Use Save the Food's Guestimator tool to plan for the right amount of food for your guests!

savethefood.com/guestimator



Alternatively, encourage people to take home leftovers after the party.



Consider Reusable or Compostable Decor

Balloons can be fun and festive, but they often escape the party and wind up on our beaches or in other natural spaces. Consider reusable decorations like a garland, compostable decor like flowers, or a Kraft paper "tablecloth" instead of a plastic one.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are "compostable" plastics and bioplastics not accepted in the compost?

Nearly all of Marin's compost is hauled to a certified organic composter in Novato, WM EarthCare. This composter would lose their organic certification if it accepted these "compostable" plastics.

Additionally, these products frequently do not break down successfully and are skimmed out to be landfilled at the end of the composting process.

Why should I compost and recycle after my party?

There are several reasons!

- 1. It's the law:** In California, State Law SB 1383 requires that all Californians keep compostable material out of the landfill to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.
- 2. It improves soil health:** Composting returns nutrients to the soil and improves soil health without the use of chemical fertilizers.
- 3. It saves natural resources:** Recycling allows us to use fewer natural resources by making a new product from existing materials.

Zero Waste Marin is the governmental Joint Powers Authority representing Marin's 11 cities and towns and the County on waste reduction and management. Learn more at www.zerowastemarin.org.

LANDFILL

Accepted ✓

- Plastic film, wrappers, and bags
- “Compostable” plastics
- Lined paper (e.g. coffee cups)
- Unrecyclable plastic (e.g. utensils)



Not accepted ✗

- Food waste
- Plant waste
- Recyclables



RECYCLING

Accepted ✓

- Plastic bottles & jugs
- Glass bottles & jars
- Metal, e.g. soda cans & foil



Not accepted ✗

- Plastic film, wrappers, cups, and bags
- “Compostable” plastic
- Lined paper (e.g. coffee cups)
- Food & liquid
- Glass



COMPOST

Accepted ✓

- Food scraps
- Plant waste
- Soiled, unlined paper



Not accepted ✗

- Plastic of any kind, even “compostable” plastic
- Lined paper (e.g. coffee cups)
- Metal
- Glass

