

LAX WASTE GUIDELINES

PASSENGER WASTE

Overview: In 2024, LAWA launched a new, terminal-wide initiative at LAX to:

- Streamline waste collection
- Increase landfill diversion rates
- Achieve compliance with CalRecycle statewide regulations

-This applies to waste bins managed by LAWA as well as Tenants-

Bin Standards:

1. All Food Court bin sets must have collection for trash, mixed recycling, and compost waste streams.
 2. All other area's bin sets must have trash and mixed recycling with an option to add compost if approved by LAWA Maintenance and Sustainability.
 3. All waste bins must be physically paired together in sets so that there are no lone bins (from left to right: Trash, Mixed Recycling, and Compost).
 4. Trash bins must be lined with clear bags, recycling bins must be lined with transparent blue bags, and compost bins must be lined with transparent green bags.
 5. All bins must be labeled with LAWA-approved, standardized, color-coded labels: black for trash, blue for mixed recycling, and green for compost (see section below).
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Labels: LAWA purchased and installed standardized waste labels in compliance with these guidelines for all passenger-facing bins in the LAX Terminals. Starting in 2025, tenants are expected to uphold the standards outlined in the LAX Waste Guidelines. Thus, tenants have two options upon replacement of the current waste labels:

1. Purchase & install identical labels from Recycle Across America that LAWA has helped to design in compliance with state and local waste requirements and to promote consistency across the LAX campus. To place an order, please email info@recycleacrossamerica stating your organization at LAX, a picture of your bins, bin lid & body measurements, and a final count for labels needed of each waste stream.
2. Design labels that meet all compliance requirements and are submitted to LAWA Sustainability for approval prior to procurement and installation. For design approval, please submit your drafted labels to LAWA Sustainability at: sustainability@lawa.org.

See next page for label requirements

LABELING **REQUIREMENTS:** **Single-Bin Sets**



Examples:



Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lid: Labels must be shaped to cover the majority of the lid (donut shape). Size based on lid size and must cover any existing text or images. Body: Labels must wrap 360 degrees of the can. Must be at least 10" tall.
Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The container labels must read "Trash", "Mixed Recycling", or "Compost" at least on the body. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compost labels must include the phrases "food and food-soiled paper" and "no plastics or plastic-coated materials".
Images	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lid & Body labels must denote core logos (trash logo, recycle chasing arrows, compost circle). The labels for mixed recycling and compost must visually show images of waste items commonly seen in the LAX campus that would and wouldn't be appropriate for that bin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed recycling labels: acceptable items must include images of paper, cans, empty glass bottles, and empty plastic bottles. Unacceptable items must be crossed out with a "no" symbol including food and water, lined cups, plastic foodware, and plastic bags. Compost labels: Acceptable items must include images of food and food soiled paper items. Unacceptable items must be crossed out with a "no" symbol including plastic cups, lined paper cups, foodware, utensils, and plastic bags.
Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The predominant color (other than a white background) must coincide as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trash = Black, Mixed Recycling = Blue, and Compost = Green

LABELING **REQUIREMENTS:** **Built-in-bin Sets**



Trash Symbol

Chasing Arrows

Compost Circle

Lid



Accepted

Not Accepted

Accepted

Not Accepted

Body



Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lid: Labels must be rectangular and raised material viewable from both sides of container. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard sizes must be either 4.75" x 10" or 4.75" x 18". Must cover any existing text or labels. Body: Labels must be placed on most commonly viewed side of bin. Must cover a majority of the front of bin.
Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The container labels must read "Trash", "Mixed Recycling", or "Compost" at least on the body. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compost labels must include the phrases "food and food-soiled paper" and "no plastics or plastic-coated materials".
Images	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labels must denote core logos (trash symbol, recycle chasing arrows, and compost circle). The labels for mixed recycling and compost must visually show images of waste items commonly seen in the LAX campus that would and wouldn't be appropriate for that bin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed recycling labels: acceptable items must include images of paper, cans, empty glass bottles, and empty plastic bottles. Unacceptable items must be crossed out with a "no" symbol including food and water, lined cups, plastic foodware, and plastic bags. Compost labels: Acceptable items must include images of food and food soiled paper items. Unacceptable items must be crossed out with a "no" symbol including plastic cups, lined paper cups, foodware, utensils, and plastic bags.
Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The predominant color (other than a white background) must coincide as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trash = Black, Mixed Recycling = Blue, and Compost = Green

See next page for a list of compliant bag vendors

COMPLIANT BAG VENDORS

Below is a list of wholesalers that offer clear, transparent blue, and transparent green plastic bin liners compliant with SB 1383. This list was based off of CalRecycle's 2023 Recycled-Content Trash Bag Program Wholesaler Compliance Report and offers some but not all compliant vendors.

- [AAA Business Supplies & Interiors](#)
- [ABE Janitorial Supply, Inc.](#)
- [An Imperial Dade Company](#)
- [American Sanitary Supply, Inc.](#)
- [American Supply Co.](#)
- [Associated Sales & Bag Company \(dba Associated Bags\)](#)
- [BiRite Restaurant Supply Co., Inc.](#)
- [Clovis Stationery & Office Supply](#)
- [Cogent Solutions & Supplies](#)
- [River City Office Supply](#)
- [Blaisdell & Songey, Inc.](#)
- [Edward Don & Company](#)
- [Essendant](#)
- [Garza Industries](#)
- [McMaster Carr Supply Company](#)
- [Nosi Biz, Inc.](#)
- [MSC Industrial Supply Co](#)
- [Stinson Stationers](#)
- [WCP Solutions](#)
- [Zoro Tools, Inc.](#)

See next page for FAQs

FAQs

1) What is the purpose of standardized waste labels?

- There is currently no standardization for waste bin labeling across LAX. Bins have a variety of labeling, some faded, some confusing, and some non-existent. Standardized labels on all waste bins will create consistency, making proper recycling easy. This change will support higher landfill diversion rates, as well as compliance with state recycling regulations.

2) Why is it important to keep bins in sets?

- Pairing waste bins means that one or more bins, each of a different waste stream, are placed side by side, in an easily accessible location such as against pillars facing the primary walking areas. Pairing bins allows passengers to more easily dispose of their waste in the proper receptacle and therefore can support waste diversion efforts. For consistency across LAX and to increase passenger familiarity with the bins, trash should always be on the left with recycling bins to the right and the compost further right of the recycling. If a bin needs to be relocated, it should always be moved as a set.

3) Why does it matter if bins are placed in a certain order from left to right?

- Studies show that people spend less than a second deciding which bins to throw their waste into. When bins are placed in a consistent order (from left to right: trash, recycling, compost), English-speaking passengers will be encouraged to make a conscious decision when evaluating bins from left to right and thus, take the time to more carefully consider what they will place in recycling and compost.

4) Why does the color of the trash bag matter?

- When employees are taking waste to the collection zones in the back-of-house, they often carry multiple bags at once and it may be easy to mistake one type of waste for another. Colored bags provide an extra opportunity to ensure that all waste is entering the correct waste stream. A non-comprehensive list of plastic bag manufacturers that offer colored options can be found in the previous section of this document.

5) What is included under “Food Courts”?

- LAX Food Courts are defined as any area in the terminal where two or more food establishments share dining tables.

6) Why do Food Court concessionaires have to add organics bins while other vendors don’t?

- Food courts are simply the first locations at LAX that will be required to collect organics but not the last. We are starting with food courts because they have the highest rate of food production and consumption.

7) What if I want to upgrade bins or order additional bins in the future?

- LAWA covered the costs of installing new labels on bins through 2024. Starting in 2025, tenants are expected to uphold bin pairing and labeling standards in the LAX Waste Guidelines independently. The LAWA Sustainability Team is always available to provide guidance.

8) Where can I order more labels?

- The standardized labels installed by LAWA in 2024 were developed by Recycle Across America (RAA). Starting in 2025, to purchase these labels from RAA directly, please contact info@recycleacrossamerica.org and state that the bins will be installed at LAX.

9) Can I design/order labels through a different vendor?

- Yes, although the labels must meet all of LAWA's LAX Waste Labeling Guidelines and be pre-approved by LAWA. For approval, email the tentative design to sustainability@lawa.org.

10) What are pre-approved labels?

- LAWA has developed the LAX Waste Labeling Guidelines (included) which contain the specific standards and requirements regarding what types of waste labels can be used on bins. While LAWA provided labels to tenant's passenger-facing bins through 2024, beginning in 2025, tenants will be responsible for procuring and installing labels that are pre-approved by LAWA Sustainability.

For any further questions, please contact us at: sustainability@lawa.org