

Frequently Asked Questions

Post Collection Agreement (PCA) Rate Increase

FAQs for

Unincorporated Contra Costa County

What does my garbage bill pay for?

Two costs are included in your bill:

1. The cost for collection includes the curbside or on-property pickup of your trash, compost/organics, and recycling materials (Richmond Sanitary Service cost).
2. The cost for post collection includes the transfer, disposal, and processing of trash, recycling, and compost/organic materials (IRRF cost).

These separate costs are included in your bill.

Who sets the garbage bill rates?

Collection rates are set by Republic Services (Richmond Sanitary Service) and approved by the County, through its Collection Franchise Agreement.

Post collection rates on your bill are the Integrated Resource Recovery Facility (IRRF) charge. These rates are approved by a separate local government agency which the County is a part of, known as RecycleMore, the West Contra Costa County Integrated Waste Management Authority.

Why is the post collection cost increasing?

There is a new post collection agreement with Republic Services starting January 1, 2026, which resulted in a cost increase. The cost increase includes processing upgrades to meet the State of California's recycling and compost/organics laws, and to continue providing the following services to residents at no additional cost:

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off facilities in Richmond and El Cerrito
<https://recyclemore.com/hazardous-waste/residential-hhw/>



- At-home collection of household hazardous waste for seniors and residents with disabilities
<https://recyclemore.com/hazardous-waste/door-to-door-hhw-collection-program/>
- Sharps and pharmaceutical drop-off kiosks throughout West Contra Costa County
<https://recyclemore.com/hazardous-waste/sharps-and-pharmaceutical-drop-off/>
- Mattress drop off at the Richmond household hazardous waste facility
<https://recyclemore.com/residents/mattress-recycling/>
- Compost giveaway events to pick up compost for use in your gardens
<https://recyclemore.com/residents/composting/free-compost-giveaway-program/>

How much is my garbage bill increasing?

The January 1, 2026 residential garbage bill increase is due to both collection and post collection cost increases.

See the links below to see how the cost increase will affect your bill.

- [Unincorporated Contra Costa County \(2026 Rates Increase Notification Postcard\)](#)
- [Unincorporated Contra Costa County \(2026 Rates\)](#)

How can I save money on my bill?

Your garbage rates are based on the size of your trash cart. You can save money by reducing how much trash you throw away and subscribing to a smaller cart size. To help reduce your cart size, you can:

- Recycle: Use your blue cart for paper and cardboard, bottles, cans, and recyclable plastics.
- Compost: Use your green cart for food scraps and yard trimmings.
- Reduce waste: Avoid single-use products and reuse when possible.