

Waste Wise Business Spotlight

Our Lady of Lourdes Convent
77 Locust Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901

Secret to Success:

- Kitchen & Bathroom Composting
- Buying Recyclable Goods and Streamlining Recycling Process

Major Gains:

- Savings of \$288/ month
- Cut garbage service by 50%



Nestled between redwoods and beautiful gardens, Our Lady Lourdes Convent has served San Rafael for over 50 years caring for aged and infirmed Dominican Sisters . Six months ago the Convent began composting and took extra steps to recycle more. The results have been fantastic. Through composting and recycling Lourdes Convent has been able **to cut their garbage service in half and are saving 33% on disposal fees every month.** Custodian Rodolfo and cook Leonorilda have been with Lourdes for over 15 years and said the switch was easy and became routine in no time. Michael Berringer, Director of Food Services and Housekeeping, was quick to add **“It’s the simplest thing we could have done, I wish we would have started earlier.”**

Michael said setting up the composting was easy. Marin Sanitary Service was happy to provide the new green carts, and a food scrap bin was placed near the kitchen’s prep station to streamline the process. Michael and his staff were excited to show off their best practices and are happy knowing they are making a positive change in their community. His advice for other business owners considering composting and taking extra steps to recycle is **“Just do it! It’s so simple, you’ll be very happy with the end results.”**



For more info & other Waste Wise Spotlights, visit: [CityofSanRafael.org/waste-wise](https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/waste-wise)

Saving Money and the Environment by Being Waste-Wise

How to Bathroom Compost



For bathroom paper towel composting, make your “default” container for *Compost* and make sure it is clearly labeled and includes an image.

Add another small trash can for *Landfill*. A label like this is also a great idea!

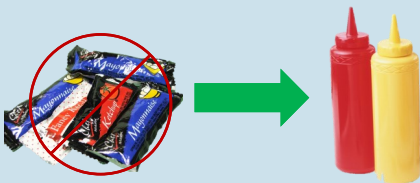


How to Kitchen Compost

- Contact Marin Sanitary Service to get set up with composting service
- Get the right bins that work for you, your staff, your space, & how much organic waste you produce
- Use proper signage with images and color coordinate bins
- Train your staff well & start saving money!



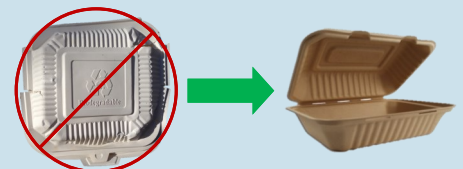
How to Reduce Waste



Replace single-serve packets with bulk containers for condiments and seasonings like sugar, creamer, ketchup, mustard, cream cheese, salt & pepper, etc.



Non-essential disposable items, like straws and stir sticks, can be eliminated or made available only upon request.



Ensure to-go containers are either recyclable plastic or made entirely of plant fiber (no plastic lining). Avoid “bioplastic”, “compostable plastic” or “biodegradable plastic” as they are not accepted by MSS.



For more information go to CityofSanRafael.org/waste-wise.

Marinsanitaryservice.com also has a wealth of resources that can help ensure your commercial recycling & composting programs are a success!