

# El Corazon Compost Facility

## Oceanside Resident Program

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**The El Corazon Compost Facility is a vital resource for Oceanside, providing high quality organic compost and mulches to local residents at no cost. This give away program, approved in April of 1997, is the first of its kind in California, adding to the environmental awareness of the area and its citizens.**

Agri Service, Inc. opened the El Corazon Compost Facility in August 1995 to help the City of Oceanside meet the mandates of Assembly Bill 939, which required all cities in California to divert 50% of their waste stream from the landfills by the year 2000.

The recycling of organics is central in the achievement of Oceanside's Zero Waste goals. The compost and mulch available at El Corazon is made exclusively from locally generated organics that used to go to the landfill. These feedstocks recycled into process to create a finished product that enhances Oceanside's local soils, saves water and reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

The El Corazon Compost Facility currently processes about 20% of the waste stream in the City of Oceanside! Not only does the facility provide residents with a useful product, but also it helps the City reduce costs through proper waste management.

You can help keep Oceanside environmentally friendly while supporting the compost give away program by continuing to dispose of your yard clippings in your green waste container, separate from plastic, metal, or other waste. Thanks for your support!

### Helpful Information

As an Oceanside resident, you are able to pick up compost and mulch for use in your home garden. Here are some tips to help make your visit to the El Corazon Compost Facility easy:

- Residents will be asked to show a drivers license, utility bill, or other identification showing an Oceanside address.
- Self Loading Hours:  
Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- We load your pick-up truck: 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month  
9 a.m. to noon \$2 fee to load pick-up trucks.
- Loads must be covered.
- Please follow the 15-mile per hour speed limit to increase safety and help reduce irritating dust.



SUSTAINING THE CYCLES  
Organic Recycling  
Mulch  
Soil Amendments

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What is compost?**

The El Corazon Compost Facility produces compost according to strict California State regulations. Compost is a natural way to feed both the soil and the plants. Using compost will help create good soil tilth, improve the soil structure for better aeration and water infiltration, and help protect plants against root rot diseases. Composted soil amendments and mulch also provide slow release nutrients in a plant accessible form.

## **What products are available?**

Humic Compost and Orchard Mulch are always available for free loading by residents. Other mulch products are available for purchase.

## **How much composted soil amendment do I need?**

Three yards of product will cover 1000 square feet 1 inch thick. Please let us know if you need help deciding what product or how much you need.

## **Soil Amendment Application**

Humic Compost will get your plants off to the right start! The following are general instructions for use:

### Lawn or Bed areas

For 1000 sq. ft., add:

- Humic Compost      2 to 4 cu. yds.
- Gypsum or lime      50 to 100 lbs.
- Fertilizer (15-15-15 or an organic equivalent) 10 to 15 lbs.

Till into the soil 6" to 8" deep. Apply 2 to 4" water over several days to leach. If possible, wait a week or more for soil to stabilize before planting.

### Top Dressing

Provide nutrients and beneficial microbes by applying ¼" to lawns and ½" to beds.

## **Mulch**

Used as a blanket on the soil surface, mulch can help reduce water usage, weeding, buffer soil temperatures, build soil over time, and reduce erosion. Use 2-3" for water conservation and weed control and use 4" for erosion control. Use fine textures around beds and larger sizes for hillsides. Be sure to keep the mulch at least 6" to 12" away from the base of plants, fences, or structures.

## **Orchard Mulch**

Designed specifically for use under trees and bushes, this composted mulch has enough texture to work well on hillsides.

## **Perennial Mulch**

The dark, composted color makes plants pop while the fine texture is perfect for use in Annual and Perennial beds.

## **Forest Mulch Products**

Made of tree and brush trimmings, these medium brown mulches feed soil as they slowly break down. They provide perfect camouflage for tree litter. **Forest Fines** are smaller than **Forest Mulch**.

## **Wood Mulch Products**

Made from ground wood, these light-colored mulches work well for pathways. **Bedding Mulch** is smaller than **Trail Mulch** and **Landscape Mulch**.