



**Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection Inc.**

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*Now find us on the web at [www.unicycler.com](http://www.unicycler.com)*

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# Santa Rosa Recycling News

Summer 2005

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Got Cooking Oil?

Do you cook with oil? Not sure what the proper disposal method is when you are done? Cooking oil (and other liquids) don't belong in garbage, recycling or yard waste carts, and you can't pour it down the drain, so what's a cook to do?

When cooking oil or other liquid waste is placed in carts, it can squish out of collection vehicles and cause slick and icky messes on the roads. In order to protect stormwater drains and Sonoma County creeks, we need to be very careful to avoid such messes and clean them up if they occur. Cleanup can be costly and can affect garbage rates in the future.

Fortunately, there are several locations in Sonoma County that can accept clean cooking oil from residents. The following locations accept up to 10 gallons of clean vegetable oil that is free of any solids or water. Please call for hours and delivery instructions.

### **Michele's Restaurant**

7th & Adams - 542-2577

### **Puerto Vallarta**

3333 Cleveland Ave. - 575-4374

### **Stim's Parkside Grill & BBQ**

557 Summerfield Rd. - 539-6100

And just what happens to this oil collected at these restaurants? Yokoyo Biofuels of Ukiah collects it and it is turned into biofuel.

Visit [recyclenow.org](http://recyclenow.org) and see the Recycling Topics Database Search and look under "grease/food service oils" for additional Sonoma County locations. Or call them at 565-DESK for all other disposal questions.

## Holiday Collection Schedule

Service is delayed by one day when the following holidays occur on a weekday:

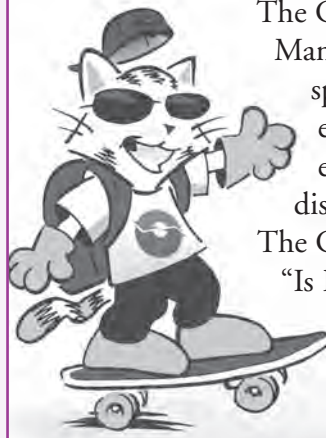
- July 4th
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- New Years Day

*Customers whose regular service days are Thursday or Friday will have service delayed by one day during Thanksgiving week. Because Christmas and New Year's fall on Saturday this year, there will be no interruption to your collection schedule during those holiday weeks.*

## Going on Vacation?

You may put your garbage service on hold if you will be gone for a minimum of three weeks. Just call our office and give the stop and start dates. You will still receive your regular bill. Please call 586-1478 when it arrives and our office manager will prorate the charges.

## Is Recycling Good for California's Economy?



The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) sponsored two studies in an effort to better understand the effects of waste diversion and disposal on the State's economy. The CIWMB created the brochure "Is Recycling Good for California's Economy?" The brochure provides answers to questions such as the following:

- **Recycling is good for the environment, but is it really good for the economy too?**
- **Is recycling just for a few alternative or "green" businesses?**
- **Has California's 50 percent waste diversion mandate been good for the State's economy?**
- **Can recycling benefit local jurisdictions?**
- **Will less waste disposal and more recycling help or hurt California's economy?**

Both studies came up with similar conclusions:

**Diversion creates twice as many jobs**—Sending waste on a short, one-way trip through the economy to a landfill creates 2.5 jobs for every 1,000 tons, whereas recycling this material through the economy again and again creates almost 5 jobs.

**Diversion doubles the income and produces twice the sales per ton**—Recycling one additional ton of waste will pay \$101 more in salaries and wages, produce \$275 more in goods and services, and generate \$135 more in sales than disposing of it in a landfill.

For copies of the brochure "Is Recycling Good for California's Economy?" contact the CIWMB's Publications Clearinghouse at 1-800-CA-WASTE. When ordering the brochure ask for publication #410-03-013.

## A Billion Water Bottles Litter California

Californians toss more than 1 billion empty water bottles away every year—enough plastic to make 74 million square feet of carpeting. Only 16% of all water bottles sold in California are recycled.

The sight of a water bottle in someone's hand has become as common as a cell phone. Californians end up costing themselves 4 cents every time they throw away an empty water bottle—the deposit they pay on the container. Boosting the deposit to 10 cents per container could double the recycling rate.

One factor keeping water bottle recycling low is the same factor making the containers so popular—portability. People with water bottles are walking around on the streets. It's generally not for home consumption and is therefore not being put in curbside recycling bins. Instead, people on the go are simply discarding the bottles. The best option is to hold onto your water bottle until you have an opportunity to recycle them or carry water in a reusable plastic bottle.

*Source: Waste News, 2003.*

## Recycle and... We have a Winner!

Last fall Santa Rosa Recycling and Collection challenged our customers to recycle right! We offered a cash reward to an SRRC customer if we could catch them doing the right thing. The plan was to pull a random recycle cart off a residential route and inspect the contents to be sure it contained only recyclable materials. If the customer was doing a good job recycling, the prize was a choice of \$100 in cash or we would make a \$500 donation to an area school in their name.

In December we pulled a cart from the Roseland area belonging to the Frost family. We are very happy to report that the Frost family are excellent recyclers and they were also very gracious winners! Their recycle cart had only recyclable materials and they elected to have us present \$500 to the School Garden Network.

Kirsten Miller, coordinator for the School Garden Network, was both proud and flattered that the Frosts' chose to donate the funds to programs that teach children where their food comes from, how to grow it, how to prepare it and how to keep the earth and themselves healthy by caring for them.

The mission of the School Garden Network is to create and support sustainable garden and nutrition based learning programs for students in Sonoma County. The donation from the Frosts' will benefit both Santa Rosa and other Sonoma County schools. To learn more, check out their website at [schoolgardens.org](http://schoolgardens.org).

Get ready for the next recycle contest by checking the back of this newsletter for our recycle guide to stay up-to-date with what belongs in the blue cart and what does not. You can also check our website at [www.unicycler.com](http://www.unicycler.com) and



Jack and Mary Frost presenting Kirsten Gardner of the School Garden Network with an SRRC check for \$500

click on the recycling link. There you can find links that provide additional information about what is and isn't recyclable.

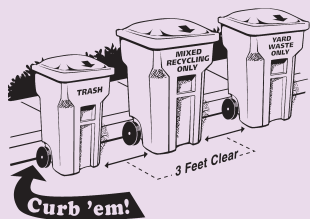
## From Customer Service

### Contact Us:

**Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection**  
PO Box 4299  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-4299  
**Tel: 707 586-1478**  
Fax: 707 586-5543

### Cart Placement

- Place carts at the road edge the night before your regular service day. Residential service starts at 6 a.m.
- Space carts three feet apart.



- Keep carts away from carports, overhangs and other obstacles.
- Set carts at the curb with the arrows on the lid pointing toward the street.
- Material jammed into carts may not empty completely. If we are called back to empty a cart that has material jammed in it, you may receive a "call back" charge.

### Extra Trash/Contamination

- You will receive a \$3.18 charge for each extra bag of garbage or if your cart is overloaded. Garbage carts are considered overfull if the lid will not close. Please call our office the day before collection day to order extra service and to avoid confusion on your bill.
- Your recycling and yardwaste will not be collected and you may be subject to additional fees if contamination is found in your yard waste and recycle carts. Keep all trash and plastic bags out of the green and blue carts. Styrofoam, plastic bags, non-container plastics such as toys, baby bathtubs and nursery pots belong in the trash. See back page for Recycle Guide or call 586-1478 for more information.
- Reusable items should be taken to thrift or second hand stores. They do not belong in recycle carts and will be disposed of as garbage.

### Billing Reminder

- Delinquent accounts are subject to late fees. Please be sure to pay your bill in a timely manner.
- Residential customers are billed quarterly; two months in advance and one month in arrears. Commercial accounts are billed monthly in advance.
- When you receive your bill from Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection, feel free to abbreviate and write your check out to SRRC.

# Toxics Disposal

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be "household hazardous waste" or "HHW." Products, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, pesticides and medications, that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them.

Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases putting them out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal



methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health. Certain types of HHW have the potential to cause damage to physical injury

to sanitation workers, contaminate groundwater, septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets, and present hazards to children and pets if left around the house. To avoid the potential risks associated with household hazardous wastes, it is important that people always monitor the use, storage, and disposal of products with potentially hazardous substances in their homes.

- Use and store products containing hazardous substances carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Never store hazardous products in food containers; keep them in their original containers and never remove labels. Corroding containers, however, require special handling. Call the Sonoma County Eco-Desk at 565-3375 for instructions.
- When leftovers remain, never mix HHW with other products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode, and contaminated HHW might become unrecyclable.

### EPA Facts & Figures

- Americans generate 1.6 million tons of HHW per year.
- The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of HHW per year in the basement, garage and in storage closets.

## Household Toxics Facility

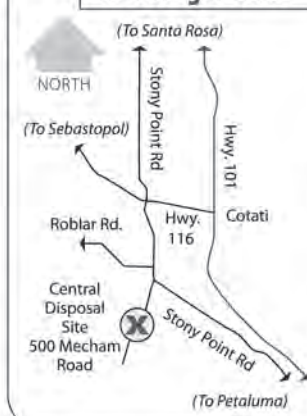
Located at the Central Disposal Site, the Household Toxics Facility is open every week for **free drop-off** of toxics from Sonoma County residents. Bring your ID to prove residency.



**Appointment:** Not required  
**Hours:** Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7:30 am-3:30 pm  
**Location:** Central Disposal Site 500 Mecham Rd., Petaluma

**Transportation tips:** State transportation laws limit each vehicle to a maximum of 15 gallons of liquid (with a maximum of 5 gallons per container) or 125 pounds of solid material. • Never mix chemicals. • Place in sealed containers in the trunk, packed to prevent spills. **Not accepted:** Explosives or ammunition • Radioactive materials • Biological wastes (except syringes) • TVs, computer monitors & other electronics • Business waste

### How to get there



## Toxics Rover pick up service

Have your toxics picked up at your home. Services are provided on a first-come-first-serve basis. Each Wednesday the Toxic Rover will be serving a different region within Sonoma County, so allow several weeks advance notice



**Fee:** \$35/pick up. Limited free pick up available for homebound seniors and the disabled.  
**Appointment:** Required. Call toll free **877-747-1870** Appointment line staffed M-F 1-4 pm or leave a message.  
**Hours:** Wednesdays, limited appointments available.



## BUSINESS TOXICS DISPOSAL

Services are available for businesses that qualify as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators per regulations (CCR Title 22 §66260.10).

These Small Quantity Generators are defined as businesses that generate 100 kilograms (27 gallons liquid or 220 pounds solid) or less of hazardous waste per month, not including oil or Universal Wastes.



### Household Toxics Facility

Located at the Central Disposal Site, the Household Toxics Facility is open every week for drop off of hazardous waste from qualified Sonoma County businesses.

**Appointment:** Required. Call toll free **877-747-1870** Appointment line staffed M-F 1-4 pm or leave a message.  
**Fees:** \$25 registration fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.  
**Hours:** Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7:30 am-3:30 pm  
**Location:** Central Disposal Site at 500 Mecham Rd., Petaluma

### Community Toxics Collections

Every week there will be a toxics collection somewhere in Sonoma County.

**Appointment:** Required. Call toll free **877-747-1870** Appointment line staffed M-F 1-4 pm or leave a message.  
**Fees:** \$25 registration fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.  
**Hours:** Tuesdays 4-8 pm  
**Schedule:** • Visit [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org) • Watch for quarterly schedules in the Press Democrat • Call the Eco-Desk 565-DESK(3375)

### Common questions and answers

- Q. What information do I need when I call?**  
**A.** Name, address and phone number; quantity of waste generated per month and year; name of chemical to be disposed; possible contaminants; size, type and number of containers.
- Q. Will this program meet the disposal requirements of regulating agencies?**  
**A.** You will receive a receipt of disposal for your records that will satisfy regulatory disposal requirements. Receipts and all records should be kept for a minimum of 3 years.
- Q. If my business generates more than 100 kilograms of one type of waste, but I have only 1 gallon of something else that my regular hauler won't accept, can I bring it to this program?**  
**A.** You must generate less than 100 kilograms of all hazardous wastes (except oil and Universal Wastes) to qualify to use this program.
- Q. Does using this program mean my business will be inspected for hazardous waste?**  
**A.** The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency is not a regulatory agency.

## Commercial Recycling

### Jump Start Your Recycling Program at Work

Think your office could be doing more to recycle? You are probably right. Think it will cost you money? Think again. In fact, recycling is included when you pay your garbage bill. We can provide you with everything you need to set-up a new recycling system or improve an existing program. We have trained staff to help you identify materials that can be recycled or redirected away from your trash container thereby saving you money. Additionally, we can look at your operation and make suggestions for a recycling program that fits the flow of your business, making it convenient for employees to recycle.

In most office environments, approximately 70% of disposed material is recyclable. In restaurants, 30-50% could be recycled. Many industrial businesses produce large amounts of cardboard or other fiber that could be recycled. Many businesses also have other materials in the trash that could be diverted to a recycling program and don't even know it.

Our staff can help you identify these materials and by diverting them from the trash, you can potentially save yourself some expense. If your business is not recycling, you could be throwing money down the drain.

Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection is proud to offer the next generation of recycling systems. With single stream recycling, all recycling can be placed together in most cases. That means one container for all products. That makes recycling is easier than ever for your staff and it saves time and space.

There are many resources available to help you reduce your waste and our staff would be delighted to meet with you. Recycling Specialists are available at

no cost to help you set up a new program or to kick an existing program into high gear. Staff will do a site visit, provide training and bilingual recycling literature for staff to help make your recycling program a success. Please contact us at (707) 765-6424

Cutting waste is not only the environmental thing to do; it's the smart thing. Small changes can result in huge savings over time. Large companies have saved thousands of dollars a year by simply taking another look at their waste generation and by making changes that decrease the amount of materials that they must pay to have hauled away as "trash." Give us a call so we can help you rediscover recycling.



#### Waste Reduction Tips

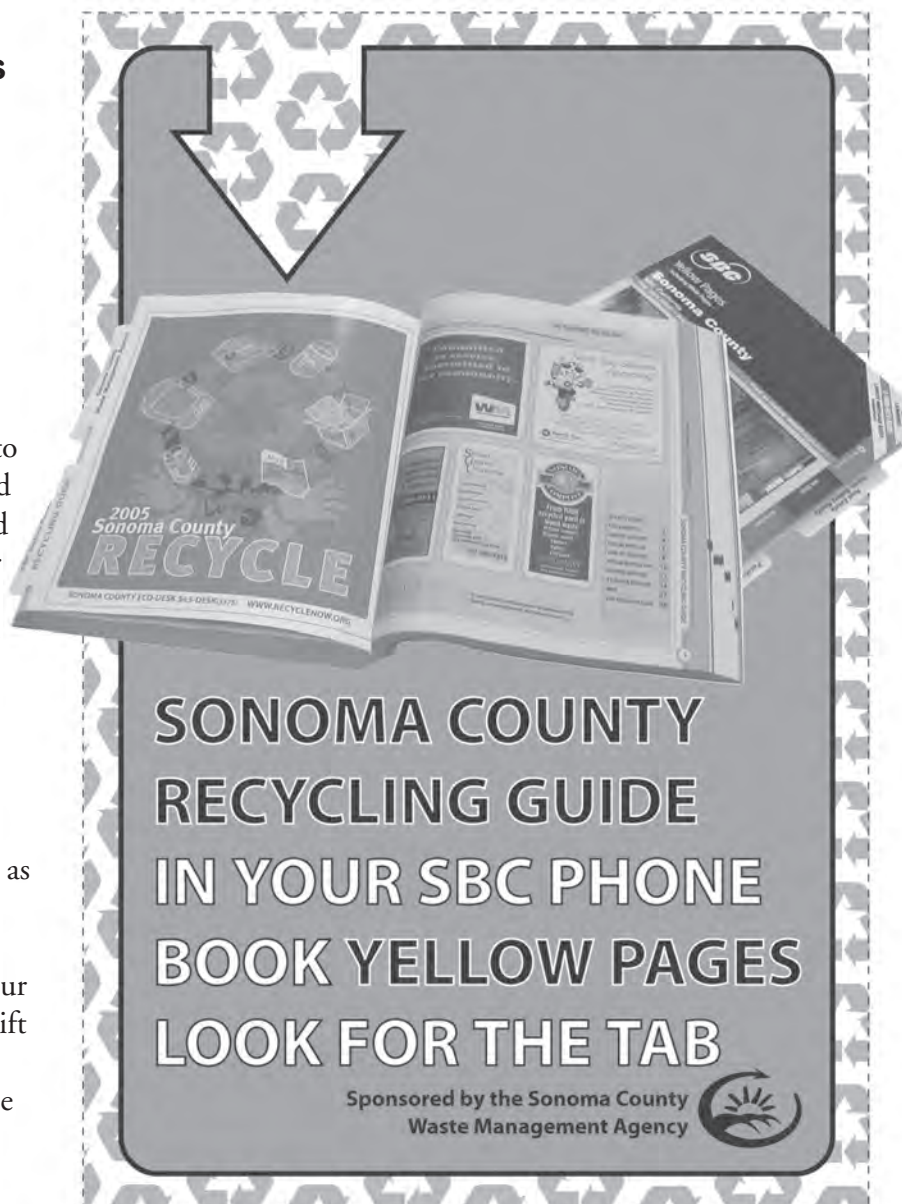
- Change the type of packaging materials you use from a non-recyclable material like styrofoam to a recyclable material like paper
- Use electronic-email memos rather than printing for interoffice communication
- Provide real coffee cups rather than disposable
- Donate old furniture to second-hand agencies
- Collect non confidential scrap paper to make scratch pads. Local copy shops can cut to a convenient size and provide an inexpensive glue bind
- Get involved with SonoMAX, sponsored by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. This free service allows businesses and individuals to make a listing of desired or discarded materials for others to see. For details and listings please visit [recyclenow.org](http://recyclenow.org) and look under business resources.

## Apartment Managers/ Property Owners

### Add your multifamily tenants to our Recycling News mailing list.

Because this newsletter is mailed to customer account billing addresses, most apartment and multifamily complex residents do not receive the Recycling News. Generally only residents that pay directly for garbage service receive our mailings. If you would like your tenants to get the biannual Recycling News, we need an electronic file of the unit addresses and permission from the complex manager or owner. We don't need anyone's name; mailings will be made to the "resident" at each unit. Please call (707) 765-6424 for more information on how to add your units to our mailing list.

Receiving the Recycling News can be a valuable tool for residents. Each issue includes a comprehensive recycling guide as well as information on household toxics disposal options and waste reduction techniques. The News can help direct your tenants to reuse opportunities such as thrift stores or material exchange programs. By educating tenants to recycle and otherwise reduce waste, you may find some cost savings on your collection bill!



## From Customer Service

### Motor Oil Recycling

#### Curbside Oil Collection:

Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection offers free collection of used motor oil. **You must sign up in advance and use our special collection containers that we will provide to you.**

**You must call when you are ready for pickup.** Oil will be collected on your regular collection day and you must call in advance.

Used oil must be stored in our specially designed containers and must be clearly visible on the ground next to your carts on collection day.

- Never place used oil in recycle carts or in the garbage.
- Never allow used oil to enter storm drains.

#### Used Oil Dropoff Centers:

There are over 20 free dropoff locations for used motor oil in the Santa Rosa Area. See the Sonoma County "Recycle Guide" inside the SBC yellow pages behind the tab under recycling for a complete list or call the Eco Desk at 565-3375 (DESK) for a location near you.

### Senior & MHP Discount

Seniors and mobile home park residents who pay their own garbage bill are entitled to pay a reduced rate for garbage service.

The senior discount is applicable to Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection customers who are 65 years of age or older and mobile home residents are eligible if they pay their bill directly and live in a mobile home park.

For more information, or to receive a senior application by mail, **please call our office at 586-1478.** You may also pick up an application at our office at 3417 Standish Avenue in south Santa Rosa.

Please include or bring proof of age: a copy of your driver's license, identification card, insurance card or any document that includes both your name and birthdate.

### Bulky Item Collection

Do you have a mattress, dresser, or old desk to dispose of that won't fit in your regular trash cart? Or do you have items to get rid of that don't belong in the landfill such as a microwave, computer or washing machine? Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection can provide collection of bulky items for Santa Rosa residential garbage customers up to four times per year at no cost to customers. Your account must be current to use this service. There is a three cubic yard maximum per collection. For more information, call Santa Rosa Recycling & Collection at 586-1478. Commercial accounts, including multifamily dwellings are not included in this program.

# Single Stream Recycling Guide

**No garbage, plastic bags or styrofoam please!  
Clean and empty containers and paper only.**

*Residential recycling is picked up on your **regular garbage day**. Depending on service type, multifamily and commercial may have a different collection schedule.*

**Businesses can arrange for a free recycling service by calling 586-1478.**

*Place all materials together in recycle container:*

## Cardboard and Mixed Paper

*Flatten or cut boxes if needed to fit loosely inside cart. Place shredded paper in paper bags.*

### YES

- ✓ White & Colored Paper
- ✓ Office Paper & Envelopes
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Junk Mail & Envelopes
- ✓ Magazines & Catalogs
- ✓ Paperback & Phone Books
- ✓ Small Pieces of Cardboard
- ✓ Single Layer Cardboard (cereal, shoe boxes, etc.)
- ✓ Corrugated Cardboard

### NO

- ✗ Plastic Bags
- ✗ Food Contaminated Paper
- ✗ Pizza Boxes
- ✗ Waxed Cardboard or Paper
- ✗ Photographs or Blueprint Paper
- ✗ Napkins, Towels, Tissues



## Milk Cartons and Juice/Rice/Soy boxes

*Empty containers only. Remove plastic straws & tops*

### YES

- ✓ Milk Cartons
- ✓ Drink Boxes
- ✓ Juice Concentrate Cartons
- ✓ Frozen Food Packaging

### NO

- ✗ Plastic Lined Cartons
- ✗ Straws or Pop Tops
- ✗ Plastic Bags



## Glass Bottles & Jars

*Remove caps to recycle. Empty containers only.*

### YES

- ✓ Clear & Colored Glass
- ✓ Food & Beverage Jars
- ✓ Leave Labels On

### NO

- ✗ Window or Mirror Glass
- ✗ Ceramic, Dishes or Stemware



## Plastic Containers

*Remove caps to recycle. Empty containers only.*

### YES

- ✓ Plastic Household Containers
- ✓ Milk & Water Jugs
- ✓ Soda & Juice Bottles
- ✓ Shampoo & Detergent
- ✓ Yogurt & Deli Tubs
- ✓ Vitamin Bottles

### NO

- ✗ Plastic Caps
- ✗ Plastic Bags
- ✗ Styrofoam



## Metal Cans

*Remove caps to recycle. Leave labels on. Empty containers only.*

### YES

- ✓ Aluminum Cans
- ✓ Steel & Tin Cans
- ✓ Bimetal Cans
- ✓ Empty Paint/ Aerosol Cans

### NO

- ✗ Scrap Metal
- ✗ Pots/Pans
- ✗ Frames/Windows
- ✗ Car Parts



# Yardwaste Recycling Guide

## 1) Place only **clean green** in your green cart:

- grass cuttings
- weeds
- tree trimmings less than 4 inches in diameter
- prunings
- berry vines
- garden waste
- leaves

## 2) These are **not allowed** in your green cart:

- Garbage
- Plant Pots
- Metal
- Bamboo
- Plastic Bags
- Plastic
- Glass
- Palm Fronds
- Wood Products
- Rock or Concrete
- Pet Waste
- Poison Oak

## 3) Place green carts at the curb every week:

- Set container at curb the night before your regular collection day.
- Leave three (3) feet of space between containers.
- All yard waste must be inside container. Loose material will not be collected.
- Do not put yard waste in plastic bags.
- **Contaminated yard waste may not be collected.**

## Where Does My Yardwaste Go?

Yard waste collected from Sonoma County curbside programs is taken to the Sonoma County Central Landfill where it is processed into compost and mulches.

Currently, the 18 acre compost facility receives 200 tons per day of yard waste. This is material which used to go into the landfill.

Compost and mulches are used to rebuild Sonoma County soils. They protect valuable topsoil from erosion due to wind and rain, suppress weeds, add nutrients to the soil, conserve water and attract earthworms.

Compost and mulches from this facility are allowable on certified organic farms and used by backyard gardeners, landscapers and public agencies. Call 664-9113 for more information.

**Please put only "Clean Green" in the green cart.**

**No plastic bags with yard debris**



**Keep your green clean!**

Don't place plastic bags and other contaminants in your curbside yard debris container. Yard debris only.

# Toner Cartridge Recycling

## Computech Systems

206 Fourth St. (707) 575-3091

## Encore Ribbon, Inc.

3721 B-1 Santa Rosa Ave. (800) 431-4969

## Rapid Refill Ink

1415 North Dutton, Suite B (707) 571-1965

## The UPS Store

122 Calistoga Rd. (707) 539-6938

## The UPS Store

2360-A2 Mendocino Ave. (707) 523-0913

# Out of the Can - Recycling Aseptic Packaging

What is aseptic packaging? Relatively new to the US market, it is an innovative way to package perishable products and store them without refrigeration for several months. Single serve drink boxes, soy milk and chicken broth are common examples of products that are now on the market. Most common are the juice boxes kids use for lunches.

Aseptic containers are convenient, an excellent packaging material, and easy on the environment when recycled. Made of thin layers of paper, plastic, and aluminum, aseptic recycling is becoming increasingly more common in the Santa Rosa recycling program.

Aseptic packaging is environmentally smart. It's one of the best examples of minimal packaging available today. It uses far less energy to manufacture, fill, ship, and store than other comparable packaging and is easily recycled.

Aseptic packaging is recycled using a paper recycling process called

hydrapulping. This process has been used by the paper and polycoat industries for more than 30 years. Hydrapulping separates the paper from the plastic and aluminum. The hydrapulper operates much like a household blender. Aseptic packages are mixed with water and blades on the bottom stir up the water. This motion creates the friction that separates the paper fibers away from the layers of plastic and aluminum. Then the hydrapulper is drained through special filters that only allow the paper to pass through while the plastic and aluminum are screened off.

The recycling process produces high-end fibers for paper recycling mills. The fiber is valued by the mills for its strength, length and brightness. No de-inking is required because the ink is separated off with the plastic. Drink boxes are commonly recycled into paper towels, tissues, and writing paper. The plastic/foil residue can also be recycled into high-end plastic-lumber products.

*Thanks to the Aseptic Packaging Council for information contained in this article.*

