



## Windsor Refuse and Recycling

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

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# THE WINDSOR WASTE WATCHER

A Community Service Publication of Windsor Refuse and Recycling

 Winter 2004

## Is It Really Trash?

Is there something in the trash that isn't really garbage?

Chances are, yes. Over half of what Californians put in the trash can be recycled, reused or transformed into new consumer products.

Waste prevention and recycling programs are expanding to help local governments comply with a state law (AB 939) that required cities and counties to cut their garbage in half by the year 2000. Many cities have composting programs and curbside collection programs, but in Sonoma County, we need to take another look at our trash. Are any other items that can be recycled in there? If so, it's time to sort them out.

Yardwaste -- which makes up a huge part of California's waste stream -- can be recycled right at the curb in the green cart. Be sure to keep your "green clean". Keep all plastic bags, nursery pots, pet waste and other garbage out of your yardwaste cart. You can also recycle in your own backyard through the simple practices of grasscycling, mulching and composting. In addition to saving landfill space, you'll save

*See Really Trash?... page 3*

### **Holiday Tree Collection & Drop-off**

#### **Please follow these guidelines when recycling trees:**

- Remove all lights, tinsel, ornaments and metal or plastic stands.
- *Do not place your tree inside plastic bag.*
- *Flocked trees cannot be composted and will not be collected.*

#### **Curbside Tree Collection- Week of January 10**

Place your tree at the curb the night before your regular collection day during the week of January 6th. The tree must be cut into sections no longer than 6 feet in order to fit into our collection trucks.

#### **Holiday Tree Drop-off- December 26 - February 1**

Drop-off your tree any day between December 26 and February 1 from 8am to 5pm at the Windsor Corporation Yard 8400 Windsor Road. Look for debris boxes near oil recycling dropoff. All trees must be inside collection boxes.

#### **Girl Scout Tree Collection Fundraiser:**

The Girl Scouts will pick up holiday trees at your home Jan 1 & 2, 8 & 9 or 15, 2005. There is a \$5 fee per tree. Call for appointment: 565-3333

#### **Greenwaste Cart Collection**

Holiday trees may be cut into four foot sections and placed inside your greenwaste container at any time. All greenwaste guidelines must be adhered to.

### **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.*

# Green Resolutions

Why wait til year's end to make resolutions? Reexamine last years resolutions, and begin a new one you won't mind recycling every year. Resolve to reduce your waste size by committing to recycle all water bottles you use. This simple step can go a long way in helping slim down the 3 million water bottles going to California's landfills every day.

This is just one of the many easy commitments Californians can make to help reduce unnecessary waste and "be green" this year. By committing to even a few of the following resolutions, Californians can help the environment throughout the year.

## 1. Look for Recycling

**Opportunities:** Look for the nearest recycling bin, or hold onto your beverage containers until you find a recycling center or get home to your curbside bin.

**2. Ask for Recycling:** Does it ever seem like there aren't enough recycling bins in California? You're right and you can help change that. If your gas station or convenience store doesn't have a recycling bin, ask them

for one. They can call Windsor Refuse & Recycling to help them set up a free recycling program.

**3. Remember the Other Important "R's" - Reduce and Reuse:** Help to lessen the amount of waste by buying items that use little or no packaging, or buying in bulk which reduces unnecessary and excessive packaging. Also, find ways to use items over and over again, such as refilling a water bottle.

**4. Buy Products Made From Recycled Materials:** Resolve to "buy green" by purchasing at least one recycled-content product on a regular basis, such as paper towels or computer paper. Look for the recycling symbol (or made from post-consumer material) on a wide range of products. There is a growing array of new products made from recycled beverage containers including backyard planter boxes and fleece clothing.

**5. Make Your Home a Toxic-Free Environment:** Keep your home healthy by reducing unnecessary toxic chemicals. Paints, solvents and other

chemicals should be disposed of safely, not flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain. Did you know baking soda and vinegar substitute as great all-purpose cleaners? Other non-toxic household cleaners can be found at many stores. Cut down on pesticides and fertilizers in your garden and you'll limit what gets washed into rivers, bays and the ocean. Contact the Sonoma County Eco-Desk at 565-3375 or [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org) to learn about alternatives to toxics and how to properly dispose of chemicals you may already have.

**6. Conserve Energy:** Cut your monthly energy bills 30 percent by replacing old equipment in your home with state-of-the-art Energy Star products. Get going on those energy-efficient home improvements you've been putting off all year. Turn off lights when you leave a room and keep the thermostat at 70 degrees. For more tips on conserving energy, visit [www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov).

**7. Check out the "Green Gift Guide"** at [www.greengiftguide.com](http://www.greengiftguide.com).



## Hazardous Waste Disposal

*New system of hazardous waste disposal in Sonoma County coming soon.*

- Visit [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org)
- Call the Eco-Desk at 565-DESK (3375)

No new Household Toxics Roundups are being scheduled as the County of Sonoma will be opening a permanent household hazardous waste disposal facility at the Central Disposal site on Meham Road. Scheduled opening is early 2005.

This collection facility will provide a location where Sonoma County residents and businesses can properly dispose of items such as old paint products, automotive fluids, garden chemicals, expired medications and spent fluorescent lamps. The new facility will be open three days per week year round. Sonoma County residents will be served at no charge. Businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous waste will be served by appointment. Businesses will be charged based on the type and quantity of waste delivered.

## Did you know?

- Medications must not be disposed of in the trash or down drains.
- Putting paints, pesticides and poisons in the garbage is illegal.
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes contain mercury and are considered hazardous waste.
- Household and automotive batteries must not be disposed of in the regular trash.
- Motor oil and oil filters are toxic to groundwater and must be disposed of properly.

**Contact the Eco Desk for proper disposal information and options.**

## From Customer Service

### Contact Us:

**Windsor Refuse & Recycling (707) 586-5545**

- billing questions • changes or additions to service
- missed or extra pickup • compliments and complaints

### Cart Placement

- Place carts at the road edge the night before your regular service day. **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

- **There is a \$5.28 charge for an extra bag of garbage.** You will be billed for extra bags of garbage or if your cart lid will not close completely. Call in advance to let us know you will have extra trash.
- **Your recycling and yardwaste will not be collected or you may be charged additional fees if contamination is found in your yard waste or recycle carts. Contaminated carts must be disposed of as trash. 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, carpeting and clothing do not belong in the recycle or yard waste carts. See Recycle Guide on back page or call 586-5545.
- **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; three months in advance. **Commercial accounts** are billed monthly in arrears.

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on buying fertilizer for your yard.

If you put vegetable food scraps in your compost bin, you'll be surprised how little real garbage will end up in your garbage can.

Paper and fiber products -- these materials make up the majority of the waste stream and nearly all paper fiber is recyclable. Magazines, newspaper office and household paper including paperback books and junk mail can all be recycled. Keep all wet or food contaminated paper and plastic paper (won't tear) out of recycle containers.

Plastics -- this is the confusing area for many people. The simple story on plastics is that if it's a household container and it's empty, put it in the recycle cart. Please, no plastic bags, styrofoam, toys, hoses or other debris.

Remember to take advantage of local thrift and second hand stores as well. They will welcome your quality used goods and you can support an area charity or nonprofit at the same time!

The best way to relieve the burden of solid waste management is never to create waste in the first place. Instead of thinking of your trash bin as an ordinary garbage can, consider it as your own little landfill.

Take a good look at what you are throwing away and see where you can cut back on generating waste in the first place.

For many of us, recycling has become a habit at home and at work. But for others, recycling and waste reduction has yet to catch on. To learn what you can recycle, see the recycle guide on the back of this newsletter or call Windsor Refuse & Recycling at 586-5545.

Let's keep in mind why we're reducing waste and recycling. We need to conserve our natural resources and landfill space. Windsor residents and businesses are doing a lot, but we need to look at reducing our trash and recycling even more.

For other ways to recycle and reduce the amount of waste you send to the landfill, visit the Sonoma County Eco-Desk website at [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org)



# "Single Stream" Recycling Guide

## Place all recyclables together in the Blue Cart

No garbage, plastic bags or styrofoam please!

Clean paper and empty containers only

Businesses can arrange for free recycling service by calling 586-5545

### Mixed Paper and Cardboard

*Flatten boxes to fit loosely in cart.  
Bag 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
- ✗ Pizza Boxes
- ✗ Napkins, Towels, Tissues
- ✗ Food Contaminated Paper
- ✗ Waxed Cardboard or Paper
- ✗ Photographs or Blueprints



### Milk Cartons and Juice/Rice/Soy boxes

#### YES

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

#### NO

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

*Empty containers only.  
Remove plastic straws & tops*



### Glass Bottles & Jars

*Remove caps to recycle  
Empty containers only.*

#### YES

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

#### NO

- ✗ Jar Lids or Caps
- ✗ Window or Mirror Glass
- ✗ Ceramic or Dishes



### Plastic Containers

*Remove caps to recycle  
Empty containers only.*

#### YES

- ✓ Household Containers
- ✓ Milk & Water Jugs
- ✓ Soda & Juice Bottles
- ✓ Shampoo & Detergent
- ✓ Yogurt & Deli Tubs
- ✓ Pasta and Deli Trays

#### NO

- ✗ Plastic Bags
- ✗ Styrofoam



### Metal Cans

*Remove caps to recycle  
Empty containers only.*

#### YES

- ✓ Aluminum Cans & Foil
- ✓ Steel & Tin Cans
- ✓ Bimetal Cans

#### NO

- ✗ Car Parts
- ✗ Scrap Metal



# Yard Waste Guide

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

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

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

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

## 3) Place green cart at 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.

## What Happens to my Yard Waste?

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

The 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 and add

nutrients to the soil, conserve water and attract earthworms.



### Keep your green clean!

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