

sunnyvale reNews

sunnyvale's recycling news resource



A Day in the Life of Your Garbage

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Where does garbage go once it's collected at the curb? It isn't hauled directly to the landfill — it spends a day at the SMaRT Station.

Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling, the City's franchised waste hauler, delivers residential garbage and recyclables to the SMaRT Station® where waste is manually and mechanically sorted. After workers sort the largest items from dumped loads, excavators shovel mounds of garbage onto conveyor belts where sorters manually remove mid-sized items such as bricks, wood and corrugated cardboard.

Conveyors move trash through rotating trommels that resemble monster maws edged with jagged, teeth-like knives that rip apart garbage bags. As spilled contents rotate, screens separate materials; the smallest material is destined for composting while eddy-current and magnetic separators capture metal containers. From your trash, workers recover 18 to 25 percent of valuable recyclables. Remaining garbage is then loaded into large transfer trucks and driven to Kirby Canyon landfill in south San Jose.



Trommel monster's teeth rip apart garbage bags.

For the safety of those who handle and manage trash, be mindful of what you throw into the garbage. Keep paint, pool chemicals, needles (sharps), expired and unused drugs, aerosol cans under pressure and other

See A Day in the Life, page B

important dates

- February **11**
Compost Workshops — New Location
- March **31** — April **1**
Extra Dumping Weekend
- April **28**
Paper Shredding Event
194,820 pounds shredded since January 2010

New Green Year Resolution: Compost to Reduce Waste

A 2010 SMaRT Station waste characterization study deemed 42 percent of the City's overall waste as compostable and/or potentially compostable organic material — food scraps, branches, stumps, compostable paper, leaves, grass and yard trimmings.

Composting is the method of combining organic material with appropriate amounts of water and air to accelerate natural, biological decomposition creating nutrient-rich soil.

See Compost, page C

How to Recycle Right! — At Home

glad you asked ...



Q. How can I dispose of extra yard trimmings?

A. Yard trimmings that exceed yard cart capacity may be placed in 32-gallon containers labeled yard trimmings, or stockpiled and fed into carts incrementally. Branches smaller than 6 inches in diameter and 4-foot or shorter lengths can be bundled and placed next to the yard cart. There is no limit to the amount of yard trimmings that can be placed at the curb for collection. Yard trimmings in plastic bags are considered garbage and require a \$6 extra garbage bag tag to ensure collection. Holiday trees may be placed at the curb, provided they are properly prepared — cut into 4-foot lengths or shorter with stand, decorations and light strands removed. Prepared holiday trees may also be placed inside a yard cart, provided the lid will close.

hauler's holler — news from the truck...



Hauler's are not permitted to service overfilled carts or bins as their contents tend to spill outside truck beds and litter the streets. Overfilled waste containers may be tagged for non-service until excess materials are removed, and a return service fee may be applied to the account. If overfilled containers are a consistent issue, consider expanding your recycling efforts. See page C, *Getting Rid of Extra Trash* for more disposal options.

Sunnyvale ReNews

The *ReNews* is printed on 30 percent post-consumer content recycled paper. See the electronic version online at Recycling.inSunnyvale.com under *What's New?*.

Please send all comments and suggestions to:

City of Sunnyvale, Residential Recycling Program,
P.O. Box 3707, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

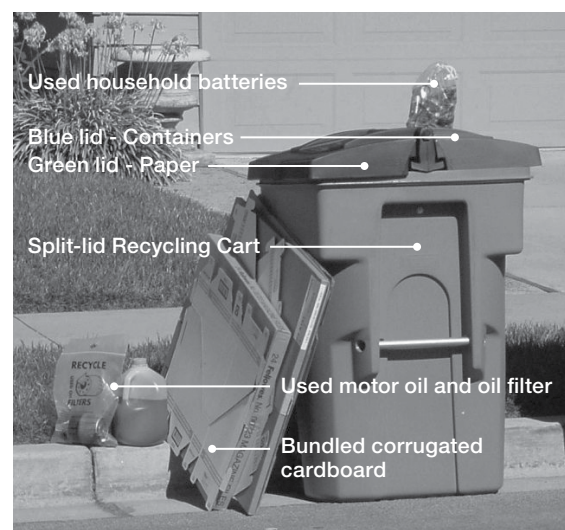
Email: Recycling@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

Products or company listings should not be construed as endorsements by the City of Sunnyvale.

All Sunnyvale residents have garbage and recycling collection services. Everyone recycles the same types of materials, but how we recycle depends on where we live.

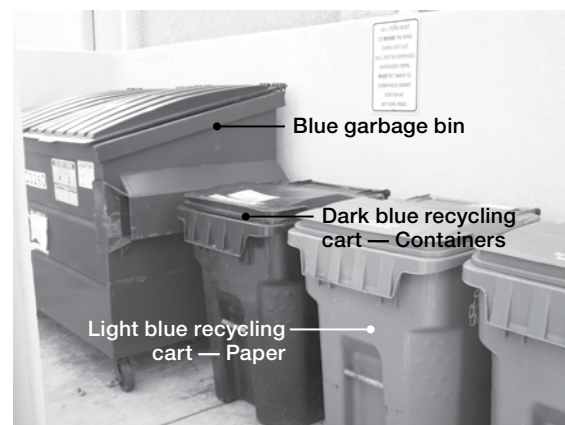
Single-Family Service

Residents with single-family garbage and recycling services live in single homes, duplexes, triplexes or mobile homes. Single-family customers recycle paper and containers using a split-lid cart (shown below); yard trimmings in a yard cart; and bundled corrugated cardboard, household batteries, used motor oil and oil filters at the curb.



Multi-Family Service

Residents living in apartments, and many in townhome complexes of four or more units, receive multi-family garbage and recycling services. Multi-family customers share onsite trash bins; light blue carts for container recycling and dark blue carts for paper recycling. Used motor oil and oil filters collection service is provided at the property owner or manager's discretion. Cardboard may be bundled and placed in trash enclosure or flattened and placed in the trash bins.



If you have questions about recycling where you live, see *Contact Us*, page D.

WHAT'S RECYCLABLE

Paper

Single-family — Split-lid cart, green side
Multi-family — Dark blue cart

- Catalogs, magazines
- Cereal, cake mix, tissue boxes (remove liners)
- Copier or office, construction paper
- Gift wrap, greeting cards (non-metallic)
- Newspapers, inserts, junk mail
- Paper egg cartons, paper bags
- Phone and paperback books

Containers

Single-family — Split-lid cart, blue side
Multi-family — Light blue cart

Empty and rinse food and beverage containers, remove and recycle lids.

- Glass bottles and jars (food, beverage, wine, oil)
- Metal cans (aluminum, tin, bi-metal, steel)
- Plastic bottles and tubs #1-#7

WHAT'S NOT RECYCLABLE

Throw these items in the trash

- Aerosol cans (must be completely empty)
- Aseptic packaging (boxed liquids like juice, broth, soy, soup)
- Black or hard plastics of any kind
- Plastic clamshells (hinged food containers)
- Glass (auto, ceramics, mirrors, pyrex or window)
- Hard bound books
- Metallic content gift wrap and cards or foil
- Paper contaminated with food/liquids (pizza boxes, napkins, plates, cups)
- Polystyrene foam (egg cartons, cups, food and meat trays)
- Recycle clean, dry single-use plastic bags, wrap and film at local grocery stores.

A Day in the Life, continued from page A

hazardous waste out of the garbage. Read more about safe disposal of hazardous materials on page D, the HHW article.

Take the *SMaRT Station video tour* to learn more about a day in the life of your garbage at Recycling.inSunnyvale.com.

Getting Rid of Extra Trash

Whether cleaning, moving or entertaining, everyone occasionally generates extra trash. Before throwing items away, consider donating or selling items to keep them out of landfills.

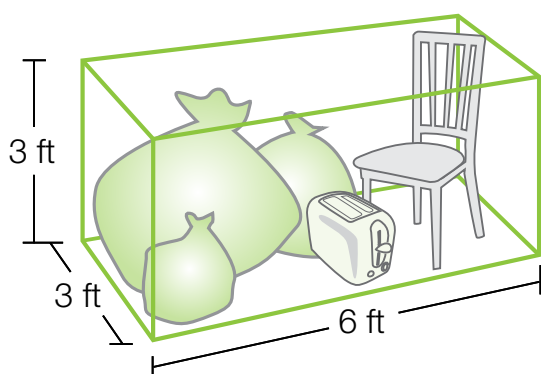
Extra Garbage Bag Tags

For that extra bag or two of holiday garbage, remember to purchase extra garbage bag tags (\$6) for each extra bag. Visit *Recycling.inSunnyvale.com* for a list of grocery retailers and City facilities that sell tags. Set tagged bags next to garbage carts with tags facing the street. Tags are NOT required for on-call collections.

On-Call Collection — Single-Family Residents

Single-family residents may take advantage of two convenient On-Call Collection appointments each year. Using the setup below as a guide, place up to two cubic yards of extra trash and

On-Call Collection Setup

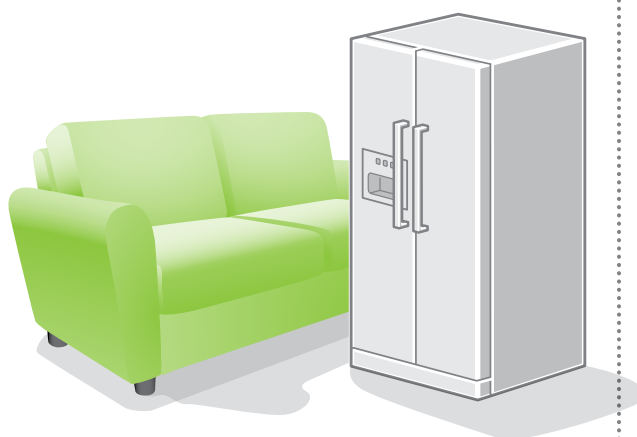


two bulky items, including electronics and appliances, at the curb for collection. To make an appointment, call Utilities Residential Customer Service at (408) 730-7400, no later than 2 p.m. the day prior to regular trash service.

On-Call Collection Guidelines

- Briefly describe items to ensure dispatch of appropriate equipment and personnel.
- Allow for collection between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Contain loose materials in bags, boxes or 32-gallon cans.
- Hazardous waste and most construction and demolition materials are not collected curbside.

Multi-Family residents may dispose of extra trash using onsite garbage bins, provided they do not overfill bins. The SMaRT Station accepts extra trash at a minimum charge of \$16 per cubic yard depending on materials disposed. Residents can separate recyclable materials from trash to save money on disposal.



Compost, continued from page A

Aside from converting organics to a resource and diverting tons from the landfill, the use of compost:

- Regenerates and enriches poor soils, producing vitamin-rich vegetable and fruit crops;
- Suppresses plant diseases and pests, reducing need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides;
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by keeping methane-producing organics out of landfills; and
- Helps retain moisture in the soil, reducing watering needs.

The City hosts composting workshops every second Saturday monthly, beginning February through November (see *Upcoming Events*, page D). Master Composter volunteers teach both backyard and worm composting methods, provide bin demonstrations and answer questions. Bins and worms are available for purchase following the workshop so residents can start composting right away.

Take personal waste reduction beyond recycling paper and containers — make a New

Year's Green Resolution to compost your organic material. Workshops fill up quickly so register online or by phone today (see *Contact Us*, page D).



Volunteers Joanne and Mary Ann demonstrate backyard composting.

SMaRT Station services

Trash Disposal

The SMaRT Station accepts trash, debris and construction material from Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Palo Alto residents. Disposal charges are based on type of material and volume (cubic yards). To keep costs low, separate recyclables from trash before dumping. Contact Bay Counties Waste Services at (408) 752-8530 for disposal information.

SMaRT Station Recycling Center

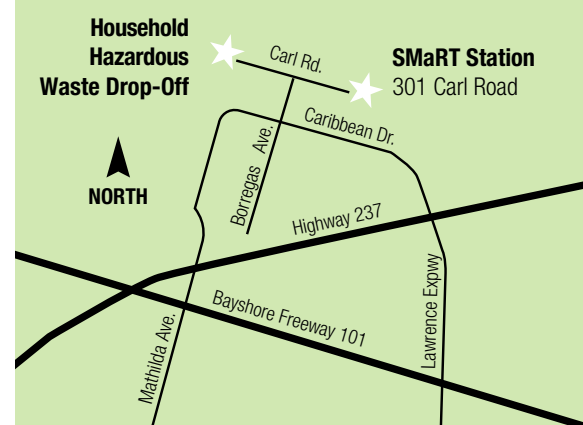
You can recycle paper, plastics, glass, scrap metal, cardboard, clothing and shoes and these hazardous waste items only.

- Antifreeze*
- Cooking oil*
- Used motor oil and oil filters*
- Batteries (any type, tape positive ends)
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes
- Small electronics, monitors and televisions (limit 4)
- Sharps, needles, lancets (dispose in red bin)**

*Limit 10 gallons, in 5-gallon containers or smaller
 **Use a biohazard, or heavy-duty, tightly-sealed plastic container

Hours of Operation

The SMaRT Station is open daily, except Thanksgiving, December 25 and January 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To minimize roadside littering, loads must be covered or pay a \$15 charge.



Coming Soon!



The 7th Annual Greenlight Earth Day Film Festival contest, sponsored by the City of Sunnyvale, is open to students, grades 6 – 8 and 9 – 12, and adults. Video entries that show how individual actions can reduce our environmental impact will vie for \$1,000 in prizes and recognition on cable TV and the internet. For details and entry forms, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/greenlight or call (650) 494-8686 ext. 39.



Your Sunnyvale Certified Green Business

European Auto Works 629 N Mathilda Ave

When European Auto Works recently relocated to Sunnyvale, Cliff Greenman made Green Business re-certification a first priority. Greenman incorporated environmentally-friendly features such as:

- Installing solar tubes over the shop floor and work spaces to use natural light and maximize long-term energy cost savings;
- Sealing the shop floor for better pollution prevention control;



Manager Cliff Greenman uses 100% recycled content copy paper.

- Dry-sweeping surfaces to conserve water; and
 - Capturing dirty car wash water to filter pollutants from water entering storm drains.
- Greenman implemented additional conservation tactics such as:
- Planting water-wise plants to reduce landscape maintenance and water use;
 - Mulching landscaping to retain moisture and control weeds;
 - Using durable dishes in the kitchen to minimize single-use disposables; and
 - Increasing container and paper recycling.

Greenman was pleased to “save \$100 monthly” on his garbage bill and, when asked why European Auto Works went through so much effort to obtain Bay Area Green Business certification, he said, “It just feels good and customers really do take notice.”

For a complete list of all Sunnyvale Green Businesses, visit Recycling.inSunnyvale.com. Interested in becoming a Green Business? Visit reducewaste.org or call (408) 282-3180 for more information.

Understanding Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

It's easy to get confused about proper household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal. A hazardous waste can be a solid, a liquid or a compressed gas and has properties that render it potentially harmful to human and environmental health.

Products labeled toxic, corrosive, flammable or reactive — paint, solvents, lacquers (nail polish), household cleaners, garden and pool chemicals and compressed air cylinders are clearly hazardous and must be disposed at an HHW event (see *Upcoming Events*, right). Ordinary household items — electronics, over-the-counter

(OTC) and prescription drugs may contain heavy metals or chemicals that contaminate the environment and, when thrown into the garbage, can jeopardize the health and safety of SMaRT Station sorters who manually cull recyclables from the trash.

Use the chart below as a guideline for proper hazardous waste disposal. Remember, it is unlawful to dispose of HHW in the garbage, recycling carts, down storm drains, in the sewer (toilets) or on the ground. For more details, visit our website or call (408) 730-7262 (see contact us, at right).

Household Hazardous Waste Items:	Where to Dispose — Not in the Garbage
Products labeled toxic, corrosive, reactive or flammable. Paint, solvents, lacquers (nail polish), household cleaners, garden or pool chemicals, compressed air tanks, and prescription drugs (including liquids)	Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event
Prescription drugs, vitamins and OTCs NO LIQUIDS	Sunnyvale Fire Stations
Sharps, needles and lancets	SMaRT Station (red bin only)
Universal Waste: Mercury-containing products, fluorescents, thermometers, and thermostats. Electronic devices, computers, cell phones, small appliances and batteries (all types)	SMaRT Station Recycling Center
Used motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze and cooking oil	SMaRT Station Recycling Center (in designated area)

Recycling Events

For details about upcoming recycling events, see the *Contact Us* listings below. Locate the 2012 Recycling Events Calendar inserted in this winter *Quarterly Report* or contact us for a copy.

Compost Workshops

February 11 • March 10
10 a.m. to noon

Learn to compost at free workshops on second Saturdays monthly February through November. Registration online or by phone required.

New Location

250 N. Sunnyvale Ave., Murphy Park Building

Bay-friendly Gardening Workshops

Learn to plan and plant a sustainable garden. Go to Stopwaste.org, *Bay-friendly Gardening Workshops* for more information.

Extra Dumping Weekends

March 31 – April 1 • April 14 – 15
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dispose of extra trash at no cost — these weekends only.

SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Events

January 21 • February 18 • March 17
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dispose of HHW at no cost every third Saturday monthly except December.

164 Carl Road

Paper Shredding Events

April 28 • August 25 • November 3
8 a.m. to noon

Personal document shredding at no cost. Five bag/box limit. Proof of Palo Alto, Mountain View or Sunnyvale residency required. No businesses. SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road

Citywide Garage Sale Day

September 22

contact us

Business hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are at your service.

Recycling Program Customer Service

(408) 730-7262

TDD (408) 730-7501

Recycling.inSunnyvale.com

- Recycling answers, event details
- Online registrations

Utilities Residential Customer Service

(408) 730-7400

PayMyBill.inSunnyvale.com

- Garbage service accounts
- On-Call Collection appointments
- Cart repairs or replacements

Utilities Commercial Customer Service

(408) 730-7681

- Garbage service accounts
- Debris box rentals

Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling

(408) 565-9900

sswr.com

- Missed pick-ups